

A STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF BENGAL
Vol. III, Part-I

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF MIDNAPUR

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DA GAMA OF PORTUGUESE INDIA OF THE DUTCH SOCIETY IN JAVA AND OF
THE ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY LONDON HONORARY FELLOW OF
THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY ORDINARY FELLOW OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, ETC**



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PREFACE TO VOLUME III.

OF THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF BENGAL

The present volume treats of the southern half of the Bardwan Division. This Division—one of the most populous and wealthy, and the most varied as regards physical aspects, of the Administrative Divisions of Bengal—comprises six Districts, namely, Midnapur on the south; Hugli, Howrah, and Bardwan on the east; Bankura on the west; and Birbhum on the north. The present volume deals with the three southern Districts,—Midnapur, and Hugli including the Magisterial District of Howrah. The following volume will treat of the three northern ones,—Bardwan District, Bankura, and Birbhum.

Midnapur, which I have placed first in this volume, exhibits the threefold characteristics of a seaboard, a deltaic and a high-lying, non-fluvial District; and in this way fitly represents the Administrative Division to which it belongs. Its eastern border has been formed within historical times out of the alluvial deposits borne down by the Hugli from the great Gangetic system of Upper India. Its southern tracts are strictly maritime, subject to tidal waves and to the in-roads of the sea. Its western part consists of the hard laterite formation, and slopes upwards to the adjoining highlands and mountain ranges of the Orissa Tributary States.

Hugli District represents the ordinary type of an old-formed deltaic country; but its proximity to Calcutta gives it a wealth and an importance which few Districts of the Bengal delta possess. It contains the densest population of any non-urban tract in India, viz. 1045 persons per square mile. The river Hugli forms, as it were, a great street, which carries the overflows of the wealth and population of Calcutta to the villages along its banks. Hugli district has also a special interest, from the fact that it exhibits the final stage in the construction of a delta, the stage in which the channels silt up and cease to afford adequate outlets from the swamps and marshes. The malarial fevers incident to that stage have for some years preyed upon the population; and a narrative of the

measures by which modern science is endeavouring to combat the unfavourable physical conditions of the country will be found in my Statistical Account.

The Magisterial District of Howrah forms a transpontine suburb of Calcutta. For revenue purposes it is included within Hugli, but in other respects it constitutes a separate District.

This volume treats of an area of 6564 square miles, containing a population of 4,029,519 souls. The statistics were collected for the most part in the years 1870-72, and as regards accuracy are subject to the remarks in my Preface to Volume I.

W. W. H.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
GEOGRAPHY AND GENERAL ASPECT	1-25
Area and Boundaries	1
Jurisdiction and Historical Sketch	2
Physical Aspects	6
River System	8
Changes in River Courses... ..	10
The Midnapur High-Level Canal	14
Rupnarayan and Rasulpur Canal	22
Utilization of the Water ¹ Supply	22
Fisheries	23
Land Reclamation	24
Lines of Drainage	24
Mineral Products... ..	25
Jungle Products	25
Feræ Naturæ	25
 THE PEOPLE	 26-66
Population, including the Census of 1872	26
Occupations of the People... ..	30
Ethnical Division of the People	34
Aboriginal and Hill Tribes... ..	37
Immigration and Emigration	37
List of Castes	38
Religious Division of the People	44
List of Towns and Villages	46
Village Officials	57
Material condition of the People : Clothing	
Food, etc.	65
 AGRICULTURE	 66-105
Rice Cultivation and List of Crops	66
Cultivated Area, Out-turn of Crops, etc.	69
Condition of the Peasantry	70
Domestic Animals, Agricultural Implements, etc.	71

	PAGE
AGRICULTURE—continued.	
Wages and Prices, Weights and Measures, etc.	72
Waste Lands	73
Land Tenures	74
Land Settlements	89
Rates of Rent	98
Abwabs or Customary Cesses	99
Manure, Rotation of Crops, etc.	104
Irrigation	104
NATURAL CALAMITIES	105-139
Natural Calamities, such as Droughts and Floods	105
Famine Prices and Famine Warnings	110
The Famine of 1866 as it affected Midnapur...	111
Embankments	124
Foreign and Absentee Proprietors	138
MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, COMMERCE,	
MANUFACTURES... ..	139-147
Roads and Means of Communication	139
Manufactures	142
Salt Manufacture	143
Trade and Commerce	145
Capital and Interest	146
Estimated Income of the District	146
ADMINISTRATIVE	147-219
Revenue and Expenditure at different Periods	147
Land Revenue : Method and cost of Collection, etc.	149
Civil and Criminal courts... ..	157
Police and Jail Statistics	157
Educational Statistics	167
Postal Statistics	181
Administrative Subdivisions	182
Fiscal Divisions (Parganas)	183

METEOROLOGICAL, MEDICAL, AND SANITARY	...	219-250
Meteorological Aspects : the Cyclone of 1864		219
Climate, Temperature, and Rainfall	...	227
Medical Aspects : the Epidemic Fever	...	227
Cattle Diseases	... ..	246
Native Medical Practitioners	... ..	247
Indigenous Vegetable Drugs	... ..	248
Charitable Dispensaries	... ..	249
APPENDICES	... ..	253-288
I. Preface to Vol. I of A STATISTICAL		
ACCOUNT OF BENGAL	... ..	253
II. Preface to the 1st Edition of 1881 of		
THE IMPERIAL GAZETTEER OF INDIA.	... ..	260
III. Dr. Francis Buchanan (Hamilton)'s Preface		
to the GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND		
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT,		
OR ZILLA, OR DINAJPUR.	... ..	283
INDEX	... ..	289-95
MAP		

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The local weights and measures are given in detail at p. 72-73. In some instances in the following volume, these weights and measures have been converted into their English equivalents, and the native names have not been added. In such cases the reversion from the English equivalents may be effected with sufficient accuracy in accordance with the following tables :

MONEY

1 pie ($\frac{1}{12}$ of an anna) = $\frac{1}{2}$ farthing.

1 pice ($\frac{1}{4}$ of an anna) = $1 \frac{1}{2}$ farthings.

1 anna ($\frac{1}{10}$ of a rupee) = $1 \frac{1}{2}$ pence.

The rupee is worth, according to the rate of exchange, from 1s. 9d. to 2s.; but for ordinary purposes it is taken at 2s.

WEIGHTS

The unit of weight is the ser (seer), which varies in different Districts from about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to 2.205 lbs. This latter is the standard ser as fixed by Government, and corresponds to the metrical kilogramme. For local calculations in Lower Bengal, the recognised ser may be taken at 2 lbs. The conversion of Indian into English weights would then be as follows :

1 chatak ($\frac{1}{16}$ of a ser) = 2 oz.

1 ser ($\frac{1}{40}$ of a maund) = 2 lbs.

1 man or maund (say) = 82 lbs.

LAND MEASURE

The unit of land measure is the bigha, which varies from $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre to almost 1 acre. The Government standard bigha is 14,400 square feet, or say $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre; and this bigha has been uniformly adopted throughout the following volume.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF MIDNAPUR

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

THE DISTRICT OF MIDNAPUR.¹

MIDNAPUR, the southernmost District of the Bardwan Division, is situated between 22° 56' 40" and 21° 36' 40" north latitude and between 88° 13' 30" and 86° 35' 22" east longitude. It contains a total population, as ascertained by the Bengal Census of 1872, of 2,540,963 souls; and a total area, after recent transfers, of 5082 square miles. The principal town, which is also the Administrative Headquarters of the District, is Midnapur, situated on the north bank of the Kasai river, in 22° 25' 33" north latitude, and 87° 21' 45" east longitude.

BOUNDARIES.—Midnapur is bounded on the north by Bankura District; on the east by the Districts of Hugli and Howrah, and by the river Hugli; on the south by the Bay of

1 The principal official sources (chiefly MSS.) from which I have compiled this Statistical Account are :—(1) Answers to my five series of questions, furnished by the Magistrate and Collector. (2) Mr. H. V. Bayley's Memorandum on Midnapur (1852). (3) Reports by Colonel Rundall, C.S.I., Inspector-General of Irrigation Works, and by Colonel Haig, Chief Engineer of Irrigation Works on the Midnapur High Level Canal. (4) Census Report of Bengal, 1872, with District Census Return subsequently compiled in 1873. (5) Special Report on the Land Tenures of Midnapur. (6) Special Report on the prevailing rates of rent for different descriptions of land. (7) Report of the Famine Commissioners. (8) Annual Reports of the Inspector-General of Police, particularly that for 1871. (9) Reports of the Inspector-General of Jails for 1870 and 1871, with special Statistics compiled in his office. (10) Annual Reports of the Director of Public Instruction, with special Educational Statistics compiled for the years 1856-57, 1860-61, and 1870-71. (11) Postal Statistics, furnished to me by the Director-General of Post Offices. (12) Statement of Areas, Latitudes and Longitudes, etc., supplied by the Surveyor-General. (13) MS. materials furnished by the Board of Revenue and the Bengal Secretariat. (14) Medical Report, furnished to me by Dr. R. S. Matthew, Civil Surgeon. (15) Report on the Charitable Dispensaries of Bengal for 1871. (16) Cyclone Report for 1864, with various other Papers and Documents. (17) Board of Revenue MS. Records, 1792 to 1812, which I am now editing in four volumes.

Bengal; on the south-west by the District of Balasor; on the west by the Tributary State of Morbhanj; and on the north-west by the District of Purulia.

JURISDICTION.—The Muhammadan division of the country known as *Sarkar Jaleswar*, nearly coincided with the present limits of Midnapur, including western and southern Hijili. It was sub-divided into twenty-eight smaller divisions or *mahals*, and paid a revenue to the Mughul Emperor of 50,052,738 *dams*, or Rupees 1,251,318. The chief town of the *Sarkar* was Jaleswar, now included in the neighbouring District of Balasor. The following are the twenty-eight ancient divisions of *Sarkar Jaleswar* :—(1) Bansdiha or Haft-chaur, situated around the town of Jaleswar, in Balasor District. (2) Pippli, or Pippli Shahbandar, a town on the banks of the Subanrekha river, in Balasor District. This place was the site of the earliest English settlement in Bengal, and was a considerable port until the river became unnavigable, by the formation of a bar across its mouth. (3) Balishahi, also called Kalindi Balishahi, situated in South Hijili. (4) Balikuti, in Satmalang Fiscal Division, in Balasor District. (5) Biripada, situated on the edge of the Morbhanj jungles. It paid a revenue of £1600 to the Mughul Government. (6) Bhograi, a large Fiscal Division at the mouth of the Subanrekha, situated partly in Balasor District and partly in the Hijili Division of Midnapur. (7) Bagri, a Fiscal Division in North Midnapur, bordering on Bankura and Hugli Districts. (8) Bazar; the same as the present Fiscal Division of Dhenkia Bazar, situated along the Kasai river, south-east of the town of Midnapur. (9) Brahmanbhum, a Fiscal Division in Northern Midnapur. (10) Jaleswar, a Fiscal Division of Balasor. (11) Tamluk, a Subdivision and large *pargana* of Midnapur, situated along the banks of the Rupnarayan river. (12) Tarkua, a Fiscal Division in the south-west of Midnapur. (13) Dawarpara or Shorbhum; not identified. (14) Ramna, now a large town west of Balasor. (15) Rain; described as 'on the frontier of Orissa.' This Fiscal Division is several times mentioned in Muhammadan Histories, and also in Stewart, as the place where Daud Khan, the last Afghan King of Bengal, halted on his retreat before the victorious Mughuls, in order to collect his scattered troops. (16) Raipur; described as 'a large town.'

It is situated on the upper Kasai, west of Bagri Fiscal Division, and is within the Manbhum District. (17) Karshi; not identified. (18) Maljhata, within the Hijili Division of Midnapur. (19) Midnapur; described as 'a large town with two forts, one old and one new.' (20 to 28) Subang, Siari, Kasijora, Kharagpur, Kedarkund, Karai, Gagnapur or Gagneswar, Mahakanghat or Kutabpur, and Narayanpur or Khandar,—all situated within the limits of the modern District of Midnapur.

Our connection with the District dates from the year 1760. In that year the East India Company deposed Mir Jafar Khan, whom they had placed upon the throne of Bengal three years before (after the battle of Plassey), and elevated his son-in-law, Mir Kasim Khan, to the Governorship. As the price of his elevation, Mir Kasim, by a treaty dated 27th September 1760, ceded to the Company the three Districts of Midnapur, Chittagong, and Bardwan, which were then estimated to furnish a third of the whole revenue of Bengal. The first English officer appointed to administer the District was a Mr. Johnstone, who, shortly after our acquisition, established the Commercial Factory in the town of Midnapur. The outlying position of the District rendered it open to invasion by the Marhattas from Orissa, and to predatory raids by the chiefs and Rajas of the western hill country. Our earlier officers found much difficulty in reducing the landholders of the western jungles to obedience, and this tract of country was thus described in 1778 : 'The western jungle is an extent of country about eight miles in breadth and sixty in length. On the east it is bounded by Midnapur, on the west by Sinhbhum, on the north by Panchet, and on the south by Morbhanj. There is very little land cultivated in its whole extent, and a very disproportionate part of it is capable of cultivation. The soil is very rocky. The country is mountainous, and overspread with thick forests, which render it in many places utterly impassable. It has always been annexed to the Province of Midnapur, but from its barrenness it was never very greatly regarded by the Nawab's Government, and the *zamindars* sometimes paid their rent, or rather tribute, and sometimes not.' The jungle *zamindars* were designated '*Rajas*' by their own tenants, and are thus described in the letter above

quoted : "These *zamindars* are mere freebooters, who plunder their neighbours and one another; and their tenants are banditti, whom they chiefly employ in their outrages. These depredations keep the *zamindars* and their servants continually in arms; for after the harvest is gathered there is scarcely one of them who does not call his tenants together, either to defend his own property or attack his neighbour.' After a great deal of trouble, these people were brought to some degree of subordination, and agreed to pay an annual revenue of £220 for their lands, instead of £120, which they formerly paid. However, for long afterwards, disturbances constantly occurred, and it is recorded that the cost of keeping them in order often exceeded the sum realized from them as revenue or tribute. For several years Jaleswar was maintained as a frontier fort to check the depredations of the Marhattas and of these jungle robber-Rajas.

Even in the quieter and more civilised parts of the District, the country contained many strongholds in possession of the *zamindars*, which were dignified by the name of forts. A place of strength in which to retreat on the occasion of the incursions of the Marhattas or their jungle neighbours, was at all times necessary to the more wealthy landholders, who were always liable to attack. One of these strongholds or forts was thus described : 'Kila Mainachaura is a well-known place of this kind. It is surrounded by two ditches—one wet and one dry—both formerly very deep and broad, and filled with alligators. Within its inner ditch was another defence of closely-planted bamboos, so intertwined with each other as to be impervious to an arrow, and unapproachable by cavalry, which formed the main force of the Marhatta invaders. The ground thus enclosed is wide, and contains many houses. The *zamindar* of Mainachaura, like his brethren of the jungles, was not then, as now, a peaceful subject, and used to shut himself up in his fort whenever called upon to settle for his lands or to pay his revenue.'

Among the hill chiefs, the Raja of Morbhanj gave constant trouble to our early officers. The Raja held the Pargana of Nayabasan, within the jungle tract of Midnapur, as a revenue-paying estate, and quite distinct from his independent territory. Great difficulty, however, was experienced in

realizing the Government demand; and the Board of Revenue's Records contain frequent allusions to raids and depredations committed by the Raja of Morbhanj upon the cultivators in the more settled parts of the District. In 1782, the Raja set up a claim to the proprietary right of Bhelorchaur, a Fiscal Division now within the District of Balasor. His claims were rejected by the Governor-General in July 1782; and shortly afterwards, in October 1783, the Collector of Midnapur reported acts of violence and depredations committed by the Raja; subsequently, that he was assisting another insurgent chief, and raising an army for the invasion of the Company's Districts. The Company accordingly concerted a plan of joint hostilities with the then Marhatta Governor of Orissa, Raja Ram Pandit, against the Morbhanj Raja, who a few months afterwards made his submission, and agreed to pay a yearly rental of £320 for his estate in Midnapur. This assessment has remained almost stationary ever since, and in 1870 was returned by the Collector of the District at £379, 3s. 6d. for the two Fiscal Divisions of Nayabasan and Rohini Maubhandar.

At the time of the Decennial Settlement of 1789, the two large Fiscal Divisions of Tamluk and Mahishadal, which had hitherto been under the separate jurisdiction of Hijili, were transferred to Midnapur. Hijili remained a separate Collectorate up till 1836, when it was annexed to Midnapur, with the exception of the Fiscal Divisions of Bhograi, Kumardachaur, and Shahbandar, which formed a part of it, and which were transferred to the Orissa District of Balasor. Hijili has ever since remained a portion of Midnapur, although in 1852, Mr. H. V. Bayley, Collector of the District, in his valuable MS. 'Memorandum on Midnapur,' recommended its separation, and proposed that the Salt Agent of Hijili should be appointed Collector and Magistrate. Mr. Bayley, in his report, thus stated the reasons for the proposed change : 'Because Hijili is settled for thirty years, like Orissa; the people also use Uriya as their language of business and of life. Because the combination of offices thus proposed for Hijili has been found to work very well in Orissa; the salary of the Hijili Salt Agent is also the same as that of an Orissa District Officer's, and he has already an ample office, a treasury, and

a guard. He now receives the whole land revenue payments of Hijili; the same *zamindars* with whom he would have to deal as Collector, he has now to deal with as Salt Agent. He would not be overworked, for he would have the aid of the Deputy Collector at Contai (Kanthi), of the Deputy Magistrate at Nagwan, and of the Deputy Salt Agent (that officer being also Civil Surgeon). No portion of the District would be more than thirty miles from Contai (Kanthi), his headquarters; and while this would secure him from being overburthened by his charge, it would, at the same time, be an infinite blessing to the poorer classes engaged in agriculture, salt manufacture, and on the embankment works, to whom a journey of sixty or seventy miles to Midnapur, in appeals or other important cases where personal attendance is requisite, involves considerable loss.' The proposition of the separation of Hijili from Midnapur, and its conversion into a separate District, however, was not carried out, probably owing to the abolition of the Government salt monopoly. In 1826, it was proposed to transfer Chandrakona Fiscal Division from Hugli District to Midnapur, upon the petition of a large number of its inhabitants, and also on the ground of its being nearer the town of Midnapur than that of Hugli. The proposal was negatived at the time by the Government, on the ground that it would involve the transfer of bulky records, and because no object of a territorial nature was to be gained by the change. The proposition was subsequently revived, and recently Chandrakona Fiscal Division has been separated from Hugli, and annexed to Midnapur District. The Collector reported in 1870, that the limits of the revenue, civil, and magisterial jurisdictions were all conterminous.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE DISTRICT.—The general appearance of Midnapur, as of most Districts in Lower Bengal, is that of a large open plain, well cultivated. The northern tracts are thinly wooded, partly from the poorness of the soil, and also from the ruthless way in which the *sal* and other large trees have been cut down, without being replaced by young trees. In the neighbourhood of some of the villages, a few tamarind and *sal* trees still remain, and a few tracts are covered with stunted *sal*-wood, or other low-growing and useless jungle.

The country along the western boundary of the District is undulating and picturesque, with large tracts covered with extensive jungle. The soil is arid, and scarcely anywhere deep, many tracts being unproductive, and almost uninhabited. The eastern and southern portions, however, are swampy and well cultivated, the Hijili Division especially being in productiveness little, if at all, inferior to the rich rice swamps of Arakan. The Hijili Division of Midnapur consists of the tract of land along the coast from the mouth of the Rupnarayan, along the west bank of the Hugli river, to the northern boundary of Balasor District. Mr. John Grant, in his Report on the Revenues of Bengal, dated Calcutta, April 27, 1786, and published in his Fifth Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the affairs of the East India Company, London 1812 (Madras reprint, 1866, p. 434), estimates the area of Hijili at 1098 square miles, and states that the country 'is of great importance as an accessible frontier, rich in its produce of grain, but still more valuable as productive of more than one-third of the necessary quantity of salt manufactured and consumed annually within the whole British dominions dependent on Fort William.' The Survey maps of 1849 return the area of Hijili at 1013.95 square miles. This tract is well watered by navigable rivers, and numerous intersecting watercourses, the absence of which is a peculiarity in other parts of the District. It produces great quantities of rice, and is dotted with numerous plantations of date trees and other palms. The line along the sea-coast is covered with coarse grass. Prior to the abolition of the Government salt monopoly, Hijili was one of the great seats of salt manufacture in Bengal, and a considerable quantity is now manufactured by private persons under Government supervision. They pay the duty, 8s. 9d. a hundredweight, upon all they produce. The manufacture has, however, to a very great extent fallen off of late years, the native article being unable to compete with the cheaper salt imported from Liverpool. A description of the process of salt-making in Hijili will be given on a subsequent page. There are no mountains nor hills, and, with the exception of the undulations in the jungles along the western boundary, no elevated tracts, in Midnapur District.

RIVER SYSTEM.—The only rivers of any importance in Midnapur District are the Hugli and its tributaries. The following table will illustrate the

RIVER SYSTEM OF MIDNAPUR.

HUGLI	Receives on its west bank	RUPNARAYAN	Receives	Silai, on west bank,	Receives	Buri, on west bank. Gopa, on east bank. Purandar, on east bank
		HALDI	Receives	Kasai, on north bank, Kaliaghai, on north bank.	Receives	Kalikund, on north bank.
		RASULPUR.				

THE HUGLI RIVER nowhere intersects Midnapur District, but flows along its eastern boundary from the point where it receives the waters of the Rupnarayan, opposite Hugli Point, down to the Bay of Bengal. A few miles above the mouth of the Rupnarayan, the Damodar empties itself into the Hugli, and between the entrances of these two rivers lie the much-dreaded 'James and Mary' sands (a corruption of the Bengal *jal-mari*—literally, 'Deadly Waters') formed by the silt brought down by the Damodar and Hugli rivers. The deposition of the silt at this spot is caused by the floods or freshets of the Rupnarayan, which take place at the same time as those in the Damodar, damming up the current of the Hugli, and forming a back-water, which favours the deposit. These sands, according to river charts of 1745, were then in a very early stage of formation, as the main channel of the Damodar had in those days a more direct inclination to the Hugli, and assisted the current of that river in overcoming that of the Rupnarayan, and creating a good scour of the silt below it. A further and more detailed description of these sands will be given in the Statistical Account of Hugli, to which District it more properly belongs. A few of the principal changes in the southern course of the Hugli will be mentioned on a subsequent page (p. 26); but for a further account of the river from Nadiya to the sea, I must refer the reader to my Statistical Account of Calcutta, where the subject will be treated at length. The only places of importance on the banks

of the Hugli, within Midnapur District, are the village and telegraph station of Khejiri (Kedgerie) and the lighthouse at Geonkhali (Cowcolly).

THE RUPNARAYAN enters the District from Hugli on the north, under the name of the Dhalkisor. It is called the Rupnarayan from the point at which it touches Midnapur. It thence flows along the eastern boundary of the District, but nowhere intersects it past the Fiscal Divisions of Chitwa, Tamluk, and Naya-abadi, till, as above stated, it falls into the Hugli river opposite Hugli Point. The Rupnarayan is a large river, and is navigable throughout the year by native boats of four tons burden, as far as Ghatal, a village in Chandrakona Fiscal Division, about thirty miles north of the high road. The principal tributary of the Rupnarayan is the Silai. This river enters Midnapur from Manbhum District on the north, whence it flows a very tortuous course,—first in an easterly and south-easterly direction through Bagri Fiscal Division, afterwards south through Chandrakona, then north-east along the boundary between Chitwa and Barda Fiscal Divisions, past the village of Ghatal, till it falls into the Rupnarayan near the point where that river touches the eastern boundary of the District. The Silai is only navigable throughout the year for a short distance in its lower reaches, which are within tidal influence. It is fed by two small streams from Bankura District on the north,—the Purandar-nadi and Gopa-nadi,—both of which fall into it within the Bagri Fiscal Division. The other and principal feeder of the Silai is the Buri-nadi, which takes its rise in the north-west part of the District, and flows east till it empties itself into the Silai near Narajol.

THE HALDI RIVER is the next tributary of the Hugli south of the Rupnarayan. This river takes its rise within Midnapur, near the western boundary of the District, whence it flows south-east and east till it falls into the Hugli near the Police Station of Nandigaon, in Tamluk Subdivision. It is a large river at its mouth, and is navigable throughout the year as far as its confluence with the Kasai, beyond which it dwindles away into an inconsiderable stream. The principal tributary of the Haldi is the Kasai, which enters the District in the north-west from Manbhum, whence it flows an exceedingly tortuous course, first south and south-west, then eastwards

past the town of Midnapur, which is situated on its north bank; then north-east, east and south-east, till it falls into the Haldi, in Tamluk Fiscal Division. During the rainy season the Kasai is navigable from its mouth to some distance above the town of Midnapur, by boats of two tons burden; but in the dry weather it is nowhere navigable for large boats, except for a few miles above its confluence with the Haldi. The Kaliaghai is another tributary of the Haldi,—a non-navigable stream, which takes its rise in the north-west of the District, and empties itself into the Haldi, near the Police Station of Narayangarh. There are several other feeders and offshoots of the Haldi river, especially in the marshy country near its mouth, where the streams interlace with each other in all directions. They are, however, simply small watercourses and tidal creeks, and need no description. The Kalikund is a small tributary of Kasai, and flows into it a short distance below the town of Midnapur.

THE RASULPUR RIVER is the only other tributary of the Hugli within Midnapur District. It takes its rise in the south-west of the District, under the name of the Bagda river, and flows eastwards and south-eastwards till it falls into the Hugli below 'Cowcolly' Lighthouse (Geonkhali), a short distance above where that river empties itself into the Bay of Bengal.

THE SUBANREKHA (Suvarnarekha) is the only other river of Midnapur requiring notice. It enters the District on the north-west from Dhalbhum, and passes through the jungle western tract of Midnapur, till it enters Balasor District, and finally into the Bay of Bengal.

The banks of the rivers are generally abrupt, as is usual with delta streams and with sandy beds. Both sides of the rivers, but especially those of the Kasai, are closely cultivated with garden crops, mulberries, tobacco, oil-seeds, cotton, etc. In the Rupnarayan a very heavy bore occurs at spring tides, the effects of which are felt a considerable distance up the river.

CHANGES IN THE RIVER COURSE.—As stated on a previous page, numerous changes have taken place in the Hugli. According to river survey maps of 1745, the James and Mary Sands, situated just above the confluence of the Rupnarayan, have acquired their dangerous character since that date, their formation being principally owing to a change at the mouth

of the Damodar. Changes in the channel of the Hugli estuary have been numerous. Mr. Leonard, C.E., in his valuable Report on the river Hugli, dated 1865, mentions the following alterations in the channels at the mouth of the river : "The Gasper Channel had $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms in it in 1781; then it closed, and ships took an entirely different track; it opened again in 1817, had only $2\frac{3}{4}$ fathoms on it in 1852, while it is now (1865) a fine channel with a depth of 20 feet. Equally marked changes have occurred in Thornhill's Channel. Lloyd's Channel was first discovered in 1815, but is now (1865) closed. When it closed, ships took Bedford's Channel, part of which is the route still used, but part of it closed in 1863, and now (1865) the Dredge Channel is used. The Inner Ranga-falla Channel was in use from the earliest known period, up to 1847, when it closed. It opened again, and again closed, while it is now (1865) the channel used by largest vessels. Many other minor changes have occurred, but enough have been noted to show their general character. Regarding the bars or shoals in these channels while they remain fixed, the Gasper Channel has remained fixed for some years ; but there is a bar across it about two thousand feet long, and with only twenty feet of water on it. The bar is composed entirely of sand, and it changes its position slightly, up-stream or down-stream, according as the flood or ebb tide continues long of great strength. The bars in the Bedford Channel are also composed of sand, but they do not move up and down as the Gasper bar does—they always move down-stream. The bars in the Ranga-falla Channels are of the very same character ; they too always move down-stream. The way in which these bars are formed, and move after formation, is curious and interesting. All the bars which form in these channels first make their appearance in the upper part, and gradually move southward until they go right out of the channel. The sand which is deposited below Sigerkhali Point has a considerable tendency to extend its boundary to the eastward, at the expense of the upper part of the Ranga-falla Channel ; but after it has reached a certain point, the ebb current contrives to cut in at the back of a larger or smaller portion of it, which it slices off ; this slice is rapidly pushed across the channel, where its upper prong joins itself to the Ranga-falla Sand ; then it moves downward until it loses

itself abreast of Mud Point. Of late years these prongs have been formed very frequently, so that one bar has not had time to be driven out of the channel before another has been formed above it; hence there are two or three bars in the channel at the same time.'

With regard to the causes of these shifting channels and impediments to navigation at the mouth of the Hugli, Mr. Leonard states as follows : 'The section of the Hugli from Kalpi to the sea partakes more of the nature of an estuary than of a river, its sectional area bearing little relation to the quantity of water which it has to discharge, while the upper portion is a well-defined channel, only capable of carrying off the high floods coming down it. The water passing through this upper portion is not enough to scour out the whole of the estuary. When it reaches the wide area, a portion spreads over it, loses some of its velocity, and drops a certain class of its silt; and the remainder passes on with the ebbing water of the estuary, scouring out one or more channels on its way. These channels become the navigable portion of the estuary : the rest of it remains a wide area of comparatively shallow water, dotted with banks of loose, half-floating sand, which can be moved about as easily as water itself. It can be well understood that a channel formed in this way, through such materials, cannot be of a very fixed character. An unusually strong tide, a gale of wind, or a sunken ship, may give a new direction to the strong portion of the current, and so change it. Now, if the lower portion of the river were not very much too large for the quantity of water which it has to pass, the greater part of it could not remain occupied by sandbanks and shallows. They must be cleared away to make room for the water to pass ; or, if the water passing through were clean water, there would be no source of supply for the banks and shoals now formed. The part not occupied by the current would then be occupied by still water : such is the case in many other estuaries. It may then be fairly concluded that the causes of the frequent changes in the position of the navigable channels are, (1) the great disproportion between the sectional area of the upper and lower portions of the river, and (2) the large quantity of silt carried down by the fresh water discharge from the upper into the lower section.

'The cause of the formation of bars in the channels while they remain fixed, is more complicated. The general law for the formation of bars or shoals in rivers is well understood. A current carries or rolls a certain class of matter with it to some point where its velocity is diminished, which causes the heaviest part of the matter carried or rolled to drop or to stop, and the result is the formation of a shoal. The reason why the current slackens is also generally ascertainable : the river widens, or a sudden bend occurs, and the consequence is a temporary diminution of velocity. At first sight, these laws hardly seem to apply to the formation of the bars under consideration; but on examining a plan of the river carefully, it will be seen that there is always an increased width of channel or an abrupt bend where the bar is formed,—thus showing that in these particulars they form no exception to the general rule. There are, however, other peculiarities connected with them not usually found in the formation of ordinary river shoals. These are, that the causes for their formation are being constantly and rapidly reproduced; the river is being widened, or the abrupt bend is being made daily; the channels are incessantly being redressed or re-shapen, and hence the bars are constantly re-forming and moving up and down, adapting themselves to the new form of channel. These constant changes in the form of channel are the consequence of the sides not being able to resist the least cutting action of the current. Hence the primary cause and the peculiar nature of the bars is owing to the extreme mobility of the materials forming the sides of all the channels in which they occur. The same description and remarks apply to all the bars formed in the lower section of the river. They do not all move with equal rapidity, but they do move, and change their shape and size, from the same cause that has been described above.'

With regard to the question of the deterioration of the river as a navigable channel, Mr. Leonard states :—'On examining the agencies which are at work in the river, it is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that it must deteriorate, however slowly. First, there is the enormous quantity of silt carried down every year which must be deposited in or about the *debouche*, lengthening out the sand-heads, and thus

decreasing the scouring power of the stream. The process is, no doubt, very slow, or its effects would be much more marked. Vast quantities of the silt brought down must be carried out far into the deep Bay by some agency,—very likely during the south-west monsoon, when the water of the Bay is almost constantly heaped up towards the river, and an under-current is produced, which sweeps it out,—but yet the tendency of this enormous deposit of silt is to injure the navigation of the river. Secondly, there is the constant, though slow, widening of the lower section of the river, which tends to diminish the scouring power of the current, and also leaves more room for the channels to change from side to side.' Fuller particulars of this and other matters connected with the navigation of the Hugli, as well as a description of the attempts made to improve the river, will be found in my Account of Calcutta.

THE MIDNAPUR HIGH LEVEL CANAL is designed both for the purposes of navigation and irrigation. It extends from the town of Midnapur to Ulubaria on the Hugli, sixteen miles below Calcutta, and, when completed, will afford a continuous navigable channel of fifty-three miles in length, almost due east and west. This includes the crossings of the rivers Kasai, Rupnarayan, and Damodar. The total length of canal-cutting is forty-eight miles. The following brief account of the undertaking is mainly compiled from a Note by Colonel F. H. Haig, Chief Engineer of Irrigation, Bengal, dated 11th March 1873, and a Note by Colonel Rundall, Inspector-General of Irrigation Works, dated 10th May 1873 :—

The works of the main canal, as originally designed, consisted of (1st) a regulating weir, with head-works, at Midnapur. (2d) A navigable canal, carrying also the supply for irrigation, 25 miles long, terminating at Panchkura, on the Kasai. This section of the canal is divided into four reaches, by as many locks and falls. (3d) A regulating weir on the Kasai at Panchkura, with head-works, and a navigable irrigation canal, 12 miles in length, terminating at Dainan, on the Rupnarayan, and locking into that river. (4th) An open navigable channel, 4 miles in length, connecting the Rupnarayan with the Damodar. This channel has no locks at present, the tides having free ingress and egress. (5th) A navigable canal, 7 miles long, locked at both ends, connecting

the Damodar with the Hugli. The three lower sections of the canal, Panchkura to Ulubaria, have been in use for some years, and the engineers anticipate that it will be opened throughout its entire length during the present year (1873).

The above works have been carried out nearly in accordance with the original designs, the alterations and additions hitherto made during their progress having been inconsiderable. In one case, however,—that of the short canal connecting the Rupnarayan with the Damodar,—it has been found necessary to make an important addition to the original design, viz. to add a lock at each end to exclude the floods, and to retain the water permanently at a proper level and depth for navigation. This alteration will involve a considerable increase of expense. The cost, however, in the opinion of the Chief Engineer, would be less than that of the annual clearance of silt required to keep open navigation, so heavy is the silting which takes place in the present state of the canal; while it would certainly afford far more perfect navigation. The same authority states that it will be necessary also to extend the western end of the canal to a point higher up the Rupnarayan, where a more favourable site may be obtained, the present terminus being much choked by a large deposit of silt between the mouth of the canal and the deep channel of the river. The estimated expenditure of this work is returned at £37,500.

Besides the above, since the original design was projected, several additions have been made, and which have tended to swell the cost beyond the sum originally contemplated. These consist of the following :—(1st) A much more minute system of distribution than has anywhere else been considered necessary; (2d) drainage works; (3rd) embankment of the north bank of the Kasai, between Midnapur and Panchkura; (4th) field surveys of the irrigable area; (5th) cost of land. With regard to these items, Colonel Rundall, Inspector-General of Irrigation, makes the following remarks :—

‘1st. This item increases the cost of main distribution from 4s. to 6s. per acre, exclusive of land, or from £32,000 for 160,000 to £57,500 for 200,000 acres; while the minor channels to villages, hitherto always left to be executed by the

cultivators, add at the rate of 1s. 6d. per acre (£15,000),—thus making the cost of work only, exclusive of land, £72,500.

'2d. The drainage works are estimated at 6s. per acre, or £60,000. This is confessedly a conjectural sum, and its absolute necessity is not insisted upon in the Chief Engineer's Note, but rather the contrary, as he advocates drainage bieng carried out with caution, and only where the want of it is a clear and admitted hindrance to irrigation. In this I quite agree.

'3d. The embankment of the Kasai can scarcely be said to form an integral part of the original scheme, as the irrigation was originally intended to be confined to the tract south of the canal, and therefore the spill of the floods on the north would not necessarily have interfered with the irrigable lands; but the item is not large enough to affect the financial prospect of the scheme, and need not therefore be discussed.

'4th. The field survey is likewise a comparatively small sum.

'5th. The cost of land is, however, a very heavy item, much more than it was even contemplated by the Government officers would be required. The rate of compensation paid has been very high, and more than has been adjudged in any other locality. This may be partly owing to the Government of Bengal having directed "that the cultivators should be liberally dealt with," and the item has been swelled also by the increased quantity taken up for the extended system of distributaries and village channels.

"These sums collectively add nearly £155,000 to the original estimate. I have already expressed my opinion elsewhere as to the doubtful policy of executing the distribution works in such detail, inasmuch as it swells not only the charge for interest, but also that of maintenance,—without at the same time, as far as can be seen affecting the disposition of the cultivators to increase the area of irrigation; but as the Government of Bengal believes the measure will accelerate the adoption of irrigation, I will not say more than that I think it would be well to proceed gradually with it, and encourage the cultivators rather to do the minute works for themselves, than to be dependent on the Government to do everything for them.'

With regard to the cost of the undertaking, the table on the next page exhibits Colonel Rundall's original estimate, and the present estimate of Colonel Haig, dated March 1873.

This estimate is exclusive of interest charges, which Colonel Haig returns as under :—Interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon £474,300, being total expenditure, including home charges, to end of 1871-72, £47,900; loss on working to same date, £3300; interest on same amount from 1872-73 to 1875-76 inclusive, £85,300; ditto on £294,000 to be expended in 1872-73 to 1875-76, £26,500. Total interest charges, £163,000 making a grand total cost of the scheme of £931,300.

	Original Estimate	Present Estimate.
Main Canal Works, common to both estimates, .. .	£205,229 6 0	£242,704 8 0
Additional Works since found necessary, including proposed extension of Canal in Reach No. 11., and locks, ..	...	48,233 14 0
Distributaries proper, Works only,	31,330 0 0	60,000 0 0
Village Channels, Works only, .	.	14,750 0 0
Drainage, .. .	.	60,000 0 0
Bridges, ...	...	5,000 0 0
Embankment of the Kasai, ...	...	4,700 0 0
Land, .. .	...	85,869 0 0
Field Survey, . ...	...	6,200 0 0
Establishment,	57,318 16 0	148,500 0 0
Tools and Plant,... .	20,000 0 0	34,200 0 0
Home Charges, .. .	58,100 0 0	58,100 0 0
Total,	£371,978 2 0	£768,257 2 0

The difference between Colonel Rundall's original estimate, and the new estimate by Colonel Haig, is partly owing to the fact that Colonel Rundall's estimate included only the cost of the main canal and distributaries. The cost of establishment and tools and plant was estimated by him in one sum for the whole of the Orissa scheme, of which the Midnapur Canal was then considered a part. The following items were also omitted : (1) land, because this was given by Government free to the Irrigation Company; (2) village channels, as it was believed that the people would construct these themselves; (3) drainage, which it was hoped would be done by the landholders; and (4) field survey, bridges over distributaries, and embankment of the Kasai. The total amount already expended on the

Midnapur Canal up to the 31st March 1873 amounted to £506,155, exclusive of accumulated interest.

ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL RESULTS.—Until the canal is opened out throughout its entire length, and the whole of the irrigation distributaries and village channels are constructed, any figures as to the probable financial results of the scheme must necessarily to a great extent be mere conjecture. Assuming, however, that 160,000 acres of rice, and 14,400 acres of pulses and oil-seeds, on an average, are irrigable every year, and also that navigation and passenger traffic will increase, Colonel Rundall is of opinion that the following returns should eventually be reaped :—

IRRIGATION RECEIPTS.

Irrigation of 160,000 acres of rice, at 5s.	
an acre,	£40,000
Irrigation of 14,400 of winter crops at ditto,	3,600
Irrigation in tidal reaches,	1,000
	<hr/>
	£44,600

NAVIGATION RECEIPTS.

Toll on 210,000 tons of goods, at 1s. a ton,	£10,500
Toll from 182,400 passengers, at 1½d. per head,	1,140
	<hr/>
	11,640
Total receipts,	
	<hr/>
	£56,240
Deduct maintenance and establishment, say ...	10,650
	<hr/>
Net receipts,	£45,590
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This would yield a return of about six per cent. on the total estimated expenditure, exclusive of interest; and of about five per cent. if the accumulated interest be added to the capital. The irrigation rate at present (1873) charged is 3s. an acre in the case of leases taken out prior to 1st May 1873, and 4s. 6d. an acre for all water taken after that date. This rate is fixed for the next four years only, after which it may be raised. With regard to the actual value of the water to the cultivators, it

is impossible to speak with confidence until some reliable statistics of the comparative value of irrigated and unirrigated land have been obtained. Colonel Haig is of opinion that, on any calculation, the increased value of land due to irrigation in Midnapur, even without taking into account any increase in the value of paddy as resulting from the opening of the canal, will not be less than £1 an acre, out of which a rate of 6s. an acre would be a very moderate share to pay for the water, if there were no other claimant than the Government to divide the profits.

With regard to this point, the willingness of the cultivators to utilize the waters of the canal, when placed at their disposal, forms an important element in the calculation. The rainfall in Midnapur District is usually large, and the people are averse to change. They also dread the addition which the landlords would assuredly make to their rent on account of the increased returns they would obtain from irrigating their crops; indeed, in part of the District the rent is taken in kind, at the rate of half the produce. Naturally, then, they do not care to make the change, when they would have to pay all the cost and only reap a share of the benefits. Still the civil authorities and every one connected with the canal works agree that there is an improvement, that the old feeling of hostility to irrigation in any shape has died out, and people are more willing to take the water. In some parts of the District the cultivators are beginning so far to appreciate the benefits of the silt-bearing river water, as to drain the rain water out of their fields for the purpose of taking the canal water. In October 1872, the alarm caused by the failure of the rains produced a rush for canal water, and the difficulty then was to provide an adequate supply for the crowd of applicants.

Colonel Haig has pointed out that if an embankment rate could be levied, or an owner's rate, or both, the prospect of the canal would be much improved; but that without these additions to the revenue, it must be some years before the canal can meet the charges for maintenance. Colonel Rundall takes a more hopeful view of the financial prospects of the undertaking than Colonel Haig. The latter officer doubts whether the irrigation scheme in its present form will repay the interest on the outlay; while Colonel Rundall estimates on

an ultimate return of five per cent. upon the capital and accumulated interest, or nearly six per cent. if an owner's rate be levied from the landlords of the irrigated fields. Colonel Haig, however, is of opinion that, given a sufficient demand for the water, the scheme might, by reservoirs for storing the water, be extended so as to increase the irrigable area by 110,000 acres of rice land, and 28,800 acres of winter crop land, and thus probably place the scheme upon a remunerative footing. Colonel Haig adds, however, 'All will depend upon the demand for water. Past experience in Midnapur affords no guide for estimating what this is likely to be,—defects of revenue administration and the incomplete state of the distributaries going far to account for the limited and irregular demand that has yet been obtained. The experience of a few more years will be required before any trustworthy conclusion can be formed upon the subject.

'Upon the question which suggests itself,—whether, in the present imperfect state of popular appreciation of the value of the water, it is advisable to push forward the works of distribution and drainage to completion, and whether it might not be better to limit them to a more restricted area until increased demand calls for their extension,—I may remark that the distributaries are already so far advanced that it seems hardly worth while to raise the question as regards them. The executive engineer expects in 1873 to be in a position to supply water to about 120,000 acres, though for some 50,000 acres the village channels and minor distributaries may not be constructed. The Main Canal will also, it is expected, be finished, and opened for navigation by the end of 1873. When so large an outlay has already been incurred, it seems advisable to complete without delay the machinery of distribution so as to bring the water as widely as possible within reach of the cultivators, and so tempt them to its use.'

Unexpected circumstances connected with the printing off of this volume, have given me an opportunity of continuing the history of the Midnapur High Level Canal down to the year 1873-74. I am thus enabled to quote the following, chiefly from the Bengal Administration Report for 1873-74. The Main Midnapur Canal was completed and opened throughout for traffic on the 1st October 1873. The total length of distributaries

completed and in progress at the end of the year was $187\frac{1}{2}$ miles, of which 34 had been completed and 18 commenced during the year. The embankment on the right bank of the Kasai, $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, was completed, and good progress was made on the Bhuda Khal sluice for passing off the internal drainage. Irrigation, especially on the Midnapur Canal, has made steady progress. The rules have worked satisfactorily, and there is every prospect of still further improvement. The area irrigated by this canal in 1873-74 was 36,349 acres, against 13,406 acres in 1872-73, and 6028 acres in the year before, thus showing a most welcome inclination on the part of the cultivators to avail themselves of the facilities provided for them. It is stated that the increased area of rice land thus irrigated in Midnapur District may be considered to have provided 10,000 tons of grain in 1874; and the extra supply, not being required in the District itself, was in that year of dearth available for export. The total value of the grain saved by the Midnapur Canal must have amounted to at least £80,000; and although this amount cannot appear in any regular financial account as part of the profits due to the canal, still, in some measure at least, it represents the value to the country in a single year of drought of this canal, incomplete though it was. The demand on account of water-rates was £7891, 8s., of which £3331, 14s. were collected, £103, 18s. remitted, and £4463, 12s. remained due at the close of the year. The Collector has explained that this large balance is due chiefly to a want of men in the collecting staff. So rapid an increase of irrigation had not been foreseen, and it was not possible to reinforce the establishment in time. In addition, the *tahsildar* of Midnapur died this year, which again reduced the available staff, already too small. The Collector further reported that it would probably also be necessary to remit £1500 of the sum due, and that the greater part of the balance would be collected without difficulty in 1874-75. The navigation tolls during the year amounted to £3410, 8s., and the miscellaneous revenue to £271, 2s., giving a total estimated gross revenue for 1873-74 of £11,572, 18s. The deficiency on the year, exclusive of interest, on the Midnapur Canal, amounted to £4791, 18s.; and the total deficiency up to the 31st March 1874 is

stated at £109,213. Up to the same date, the total capital invested, exclusive of interest, was £579,793, 4s.

RUPNARAYAN AND RASULPUR CANAL.—There is also a tidal navigation canal extending from Rupnarayan to the Rasulpur river, in the Hijili portion of the District, divided into two reaches. The first reach is called the Banka Canal, and runs from near the mouth of the Rupnarayan river to the Haldi river, a distance of eight miles; top width, 72 feet; bottom width, 26 feet; depth, 8 feet. The second section is called the Tiropkia Canal, and runs from the Haldi to the Rasulpur river, a length of eighteen miles; top width, 92 feet; bottom width, 64 feet; depth, 8 feet. These canals were completed and opened throughout on the 1st September 1873. They are intended for navigation only; and the tolls taken during the year 1873-74 amounted to £2797, 16s., whilst the miscellaneous revenue was £63, 18s. The deficiency for the year, exclusive of interest, is estimated at £999, 6s. The total deficiency up to the 31st March 1874 was £30,188, 10s.; and the total capital invested up to the same date, exclusive of interest, amounted to £178,353, 10s. The total cost upon all the canals in Midnapur District, including accumulated interest and all current charges, up to 31st March 1874, has been £897,549, 4s. All the canals are, or will be, when opened throughout, navigable during the whole year.

UTILIZATION OF THE WATER SUPPLY.—The interior of the District is scantily supplied with rivers and water-channels, and it is only in the vicinity of the low-lying eastern tract that any towns are met with of which the inhabitants employ themselves in river traffic. These places are, Nutan Bazar, in the town of Midnapur, on the Kasai river; Kukrahati, Balughat, Balighai, Tamluk, Padambasan, Cowcolly, Nawada, and Nimtala. The traffic carried on principally consists in the export of produce to Calcutta, and in the import of a-variety of goods of various sorts. None of the non-navigable rivers or streams of Midnapur are anywhere utilized as a motive power for turning machinery; but the Collector states that some of them might be applied to such a purpose by the construction of dams or weirs. There are no rapids on the rivers. Irrigation is practised by means of the Midnapur High Level Canal, which is available both for navigation irrigation. This canal,

when opened throughout its entire length, is estimated to command upwards of 160,000 acres in Midnapur District for the purposes of irrigation. A description of this canal is given on the immediately preceding pages. The Kasai river also affords a considerable amount of direct irrigation when in flood, estimated by the Collector at about 30,000 acres. In the cold season the river is dammed up, and affords irrigation for about 10,000 acres. Dams are also annually constructed across the Silai by the *zamindars*, and it is estimated that not less than 15,000 acres of land are irrigated by the water enclosed within these dams in the neighbourhood of Ghatal alone.

FISHERIES.—There are no towns or villages of any importance in Midnapur district exclusively supported by fishing; and the Collector states that it is impossible to estimate the proportion of the population that solely maintain themselves by fishing. The Census Report of 1872 returned the number of Hindu fishing and boating castes in Midnapur District at 90,374, or 3.55 per cent. of the total population. The Muhammadans form only a small proportion of the inhabitants of the District, and would not materially add to the percentage mentioned above. This only represents the number of hereditary fishermen. But nearly all the poorer rural population catch fish for food; and to such an extent is this carried on, that the breeding fish and very young fry are recklessly destroyed; and in the rainy season, during the inundation, every little rill from a paddy field is made to pass through traps of fine reeds or strong nets. The yield to the Government of the fisheries in the river Hugli within Midnapur District was returned by the Collector in 1870 at £6, 6s. annually. The right to fish in various fresh-water ponds and tanks is let out by the landholders to the peasantry, but no information can be given as to the value of these fisheries. In the rainy season, boatmen of the Magh race come across from the Burmese province of Arakan, land on the south-east coast of Midnapur District, and fish in the Hugli with nets, selling part of the fish to the people, and drying and exporting the rest.

THE LOSS OF LIFE IN THE DISTRICT FROM DROWNING was, according to the police returns, 473 lives in 1864, 527 in 1865, 380 in 1866, 137 in 1867, 397 in 1868, and 428 in 1869; average loss of life for the six years ending 1869, 390 per annum. It

is unlikely that these figures represent the total loss of life from drowning, and many cases must take place every year which are not reported to the police, and accordingly are not entered in the returns.

LAND RECLAMATION, ETC.—The principal embankments constructed for the protection of the arable land from inundations, and for the extension of rice cultivation, are as follow :—The Silai river is embanked from Chattarganj, in Bagri Fiscal Division, to its confluence with the Rupnarayan river, near Ghatal, for a distance of twenty-five miles. The Kasai river is embanked on both sides for a distance of a hundred and twenty miles. The country in the vicinity of the lower reaches of this river lies only from three to five feet above mean sea-level, and the want of a complete system of drainage renders the crops precarious, and engenders a perpetual miasma, causing endemic fevers. These low-lying lands, when kept free of inundation by embankments, are capable of raising the best paddy crops. The west bank of the Rupnarayan, within Midnapur District, is embanked from Ghatal to its junction with the Hugli. The east bank of the river, within Hugli District, is only embanked below the Bakhshi Khal. Such embankments are particularly numerous in the marshy Hijili Division of the District; and a list of them, as well as a description of the amount of protection they afford against flood, will be found in the Agricultural Section of this Statistical Account.

LONG-STEMMED RICE is not grown in Mindpur; but a description of paddy called *kankri* grows to a height of from four and a quarter to four and a half feet. The depth of water required for this paddy is from two to two and a half feet in all stages of its growth. Another variety of paddy, called *pankai*, which attains a height of from three to four feet, requires a depth of water varying from four to six inches when it is transplanted, and from a foot to one and a half feet when it is full grown. The varieties of rice cultivated in marshes are said to now attain a greater length of stem than formerly, and can consequently be grown in deeper water.

LINES OF DRAINAGE.—The general lie or direction of the country for drainage is to the south and east, along the course of the large rivers Rupnarayan and Haldi; but the Collector

reports that the actual work of drainage is performed, more or less efficiently, by means of embanked water-courses (*khals*), which are also used for irrigation.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.—Abundance of laterite stone is found in the District, and used for building purposes; also limestone. Salt is likewise plentiful in the tidal country in the south and east of the District. Gold has been found in minute quantities in the river sands. Iron and soapstone also exist.

JUNGLE PRODUCTS.—There are no Government revenue-yielding forests in Midnapur. The principal jungle products are lac, *tasar* silk, wax, *rang* (a red dye obtained from a wood), bark fabrics, a few drugs known to the natives as *panchan*, resin, firewood, charcoal, peacock feathers, feathers of the Nilkantha bird, and deer and buffalo horns. The castes which subsist by collecting and trading in jungle products are the manjhis, Bhumijis, Santals, Kurmis, and Lodhas. There are no wide uncultivated pasture grounds in Midnapur, and very few people subsist by pasturing cattle in the forest.

FERÆ NATURÆ.—Tigers, leopards, hyænas, bears, buffaloes, deer, and wild hogs frequent the jungle tracts along the western boundary of the District. In 1850, the amount paid by Government as rewards for the destruction of wild beasts was £4, 12s. 0d. in 1855, the amount of Government rewards paid for their destruction was £15, 15s. 0d.; and in 1860, £9, 5s. 6d. During the three years ending 1869, the total reward paid for the destruction of nine tigers, eight leopards, fifteen bears, and two hyænas, was £16, 12s. 3d. The loss of life from wild beasts and snake-bite, from 1864 to 1869, is returned as follows :—1864, wild beasts 34, and snake-bites 464; 1865, wild beasts 57, and snake-bites 530; 1866, wild beasts 60, and snake-bites 337; 1867, wild beasts 8, and snake-bites 155; 1868, wild beasts 45, and snake-bites 475; 1869, wild beasts 46, and snake-bites 492. Total for the six years, wild beasts 250, and snake-bites 2453. No rewards have ever been paid in Midnapur District for the destruction of poisonous serpents. The smaller sorts of game met with are wild-geese and ducks, snipe, ortolans, teal, hare, etc. No trade is carried on in wild-beast skins; and, with the exception of the fisheries, the *feræ naturæ* are not made to contribute in any way towards the wealth of the District.

POPULATION.—Repeated efforts have been made towards an enumeration of the population of Midnapur. One of the earliest recorded attempts was in 1802, when Sir H. Strachey, Judge and Magistrate of Midnapur, reported that the population of the District amounted to at least one and a half millions. This Census was based on an actual enumeration of a large part of the District, with an estimate for the remainder on the statistics thus elicited. No comparison can be made from the population as then returned and the present population, as the area of the District is not the same. Parts of the present Districts of Hugli and Balasor were then included in Midnapur; while, on the other hand, the tract of country on the west belonged to the neighbouring District of Bankura, or, as it was then called, the Jungle Mahals; and all the Hijili portion of the District to the east and south formed a separate Collectorate. In 1837, the population of Midnapur, including Hijili, was estimated at 1,360,699, the basis of calculation being an enumeration of the houses, and estimating the average number of inmates per house to be five. In 1852, Mr. H. V. Bayley, the then Collector, assuming the same average of five persons per house, computed the population at 1,576,835. In 1866, Sir William Herschell, the Collector, in endeavouring to arrive at an enumeration of the people, calculated the area of the cultivated portion of the District to be 2924 square miles; and, allowing four hundred persons to every square mile of cultivated area, he computed the population to amount to 1,169,600, exclusive of the town of Midnapur, which was estimated at 30,000, making a total population for the whole District of 1,199,600 souls. In these calculations no attempt appears to have been made to take into account a difference in the number of inhabitants per house in the towns and in the rural population, and it is not believed that any material difference exists in this respect.

A careful and more exact Census was taken by authority of Government, simultaneously throughout the District, on the 27th January 1872. The agency employed consisted of the head-men of villages, locally known as *mukhyas*, who were appointed as enumerators. The landholders or their agents were required to assist the enumerators in preparing their house registers, which were attested by them in every case.

In the wilder tracts of the District, much of the work had to be done by the police, the people being wholly illiterate. The results disclosed a total population of 2,540,963 souls, dwelling in 12,962 villages and 446,045 houses; the average pressure of population on the soil being 500 persons per square mile. The officers of the District are of opinion that the results obtained are fairly accurate.

The most densely populated parts of the District are the Police Circles bordering upon Hugli District, viz. : Chandrakona, Ghatal, Daspur, Panchkura, and Tamluk, in every one of which the population is over 850 to the square mile. From these border *thanas*, a spur of densely populated country runs south-west almost as far as Dantun Fiscal Division bordering on Balasor, and embracing the Police Circles of Debra, Sabang, and Pataspur. The north-western half of the District, which includes the jungle tract, is the most sparsely populated, the average varying from 250 to 300 persons per square mile; but in the centre of the District the average rises to 450 to 500. The southern Police Circles, which border on the estuary of the river Hugli, present a curious variety in regard to their average density. Commencing from opposite Kalpi, Sutamata has 482 persons to the square mile; Nandigaon, across the Haldi, 689; Khejiri (Kedgerree), 480; Contai (Kanthi), 544; and Raghunathpur, 433. The next Police Circle, Jaleswar, in the Balasor District, has 327 only. Mr. Beverley, in his Census Report, thinks that the history of the Government salt manufacturing settlements in this tract may possibly throw some light upon this unequal distribution of the inhabitants.

The table on the following page illustrates the density of the population in each Police Circle and Subdivision, with the number of villages, houses, pressure per square mile, etc., in each. The table is reproduced *verbatim* from the Census Report of 1872.

POPULATION, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE.—The total population of Midnapur District consists of 1,257,194 males, and 1,283,769 females : total, 2,540,963. The proportion of males to the total population is 49.5 per cent., and the average density of the population, 500 per square mile. Classified according to age, the Census gives the following results :—Hindus : under twelve years of age, males, 405,604;

**ABSTRACT OF THE POPULATION, AREA, ETC., OF EACH SUBDIVISION AND POLICE CIRCLE (THANA)
IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT, 1872.**

Subdivision	Police Circle	Area in Square Miles	Number of Villages, Manzus, or Townships.	Number of Houses	Total Population	Averages according to the Census Report				
						Persons per Sq. Mile	Villages, Manzus, or Townships per Sq. Mile.	Persons per Village, Manzus, or Township	Houses per Sq. Mile.	Persons per House
1. HEADQUARTERS,	Midnapur,	361	1185	32,933	172,672	478	3.28	146	91	5.2
	Narayangarh.	300	828	23,543	129,553	432	2.76	156	78	5.5
	Dantan,	217	592	19,329	112,372	518	2.73	190	89	5.8
	Gopiballabhpur,	516	1113	24,001	120,310	233	2.16	108	47	5.0
	Jhargan,	169	493	8,133	45,660	269	2.92	92	48	5.6
	Bhampur,	467	698	13,303	74,271	159	1.49	106	28	5.5
	Salbani,	207	505	9,194	50,860	246	2.43	101	44	5.6
	Kespur,	229	839	19,381	108,929	476	3.66	130	85	5.6
	Daspur,	104	379	24,044	136,359	1311	3.64	360	231	5.7
	Debra,	109	679	20,332	110,747	1016	6.23	163	187	5.4
	Sabang,	283	454	38,277	214,755	759	1.60	473	135	5.6
2. TAMLUK,	<i>Subdivisional Total,</i>	2962	7765	232,470	1,276,388	431	2.62	164	78	5.5
	Tamluk,	77	249	11,375	77,341	1004	3.23	311	148	6.8
	Panchkura,	164	559	24,332	163,915	999	3.41	293	148	6.7
	Maslandpur,	111	217	10,874	64,188	578	1.95	296	98	5.9
	Sutahata	111	229	8,479	53,546	482	2.06	234	76	6.3
	Nandigaon,	158	268	17,378	108,827	689	1.70	406	110	6.2
	<i>Subdivisional Total,</i>	621	1522	72,438	467,817	753	2.45	307	117	6.5

**ABSTRACT OF THE POPULATION, AREA, ETC., OF EACH SUBDIVISION AND POLICE CIRCLE (THANA)
IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT, 1872.—continued.**

Subdivision	Police Circle	Area in Square Miles	Number of villages, Mauzas, Or Townships	Number of Houses.	Total Population	Averages according to the Census Report				
						Persons per Sq. Mile	Villages, Mauzas, or Townships per Sq. Mile.	Persons per Village, or Township	Houses per Sq. Mile	Persons per House.
3. CONTAI (KANTHI),	Contai (Kanthi),	226	699	19,538	122,857	544	3.09	176	86	63
	Raghunathpur,	126	327	10,295	54,579	433	2.60	167	82	53
	Egra,	122	320	11,445	57,898	475	2.62	181	94	5.1
	Kedgerie (Khejiri),	75	119	5,900	36,003	480	1.59	303	79	61
	Pataspur,	117	387	12,877	81,123	693	3.31	210	110	63
	Bhagwanpur, .	184	349	17,571	89,812	488	1.90	257	95	51
	Subdivisional Total,	850	2201	77,626	442,272	520	2.59	201	91	5.7
4. GARHBETA, .	Garhbeta,	437	1005	24,941	145,264	332	2.30	145	57	5.8
	Chandrakona,	121	278	20,174	106,480	880	2.30	383	167	5.3
	Ghatal,	91	191	18,396	102,742	1129	2.10	538	202	5.6
	Subdivisional Total,	649	1474	63,511	354,486	546	2.27	240	98	5.6
	District Total,	5082	12,962	446,045	2,540,963	500	2.55	196	88	5.7

females, 321,292 : above twelve years, males, 727,686; females, 830,986. Muhammadans : under twelve years of age, males, 31,286; females, 24,844 : above twelve years, males, 44,407; females, 56,510. Christians : under twelve years of age, males, 130; females, 121 : above twelve years, males, 189; females, 173. Other denominations not separately classified, consisting of aboriginal tribes : under twelve years of age, males, 20,713; females, 18,355 : above twelve years, males, 27,179; females, 31,488. Population of all religions : under twelve years of age, males, 457,733; females, 364,612 : above twelve years, males, 799,461; females, 919,157. The small proportion of female children to male children, and the excessive proportion of females above twelve years to males above twelve years, is probably due to the fact that girls are considered to arrive at womanhood at an earlier age than boys reach manhood, and classified as adults accordingly. The proportion of the sexes of all ages is probably correct. The number of insanes in Midnapur District is returned as follows in the Census Report :—Insanes : males, 259; females, 33 : total, 292, or .0115 per cent. of the population. Idiots : males, 54; females, 13 : total, 67, or .0026 per cent. of the population. Deaf and dumb : males, 715; females, 218 : total, 933, or .0367 per cent. of the population. Blind : males, 1351; females, 689 : total, 2040, or .0803 per cent. of the population. Lepers : males, 1850; females, 277 : total, 2127, or .0837 per cent. of the population. Total infirmities, 5459, or .2 per cent. of the population.

POPULATION ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION.—The following paragraphs relating to the occupations of the people are condensed from the District Census Compilation, but they are unavoidably imperfect in many respects, and must be accepted subject to the same caution as that given in my Statistical Accounts of the 24 Parganas and other Districts in the Presidency Division.

OCCUPATION OF MALES.—**CLASS I.**—Persons employed under Government, municipal, or other local authorities :—Government police, 770; rural police or village watchmen, 7586; Covenanted English officers, 7; Subordinate Judicial officers, 6; Subordinate Executive officers, 4; Educational officer, 1; Public Works officials, 18; Post Office clerks, 13; Ecclesiastical officers, 2; Excise officials, 72; clerks, 18;

Municipal officer, 1; *piyadas* or messengers, 129. Total of Class I., 8627.

CLASS II.—Professional persons, including professors of religion, education, law, medicine, fine arts, surveying, and engineering :—(a) Religion—Hindu priests (*purohits*), 12,699 in number; spiritual guides (*gurus*), 433; *Acharjyas*, astrologers and fortune-tellers, 196; Muhammadan priests (*mullas*), 96; pilgrim guides (*pandas*), 369; priests of family idols (*pujharis*), 662; expounders of the *purans* or Sacred Law (*kathaks*), 48. (b) Education—Schoolmasters, 1917; teachers of Sanskrit (*pandits*), 49; professors of *tols*, or indigenous Sanskrit schools (*adhyapaks*), 46; Muhammadan clerks and interpreters (*munshis*), 11; students and scholars, 964. (c) Law—Attorneys, 8; pleaders, 96; law agents (*mukhtars*), 388; stamp vendors, 25. (d) Medicine—Doctors, 65; Hindu medical practitioners (*kabirajs*), 1510; vaccinators, 30; apothecaries, 4; cow-doctors, (*gobaidyas*), 78; men-midwives, 41; compounders, 33. (e) Fine arts—Musicians, 2032; painters, 1022; singers, 721; dancers, 6; jugglers, 64. (f) Surveying and engineering—Surveyors or *amins*, 485; overseers, 30. Total of Class II., 24,128.

CLASS III.—Persons in service, or performing personal offices :—Personal servants, 15,960; cooks, 462; barbers, 6175; washermen (*dhobas*), 6306; sweepers (*mihtars*), 235; water-carriers (*bhistis*), 63; gardeners, 844; genealogists (*ghataks*), 3; doorkeepers (*darwans*), 665; corpse-bearers (*murda farash*), 20; unspecified, 378. Total of Class III., 31,111.

CLASS IV.—Persons engaged in agriculture and with animals :—(a) In agriculture—Landholders (*zamindars*), 988; large leaseholders (*ijaradars*), 337; holders of land on military tenure (*ghatwals*), 52; subordinate landlords (*talukdars*), 2225; permanent leaseholders (*patnidars*), 144; cultivators with rights of occupancy, 1574; holders of small estates (*mahaldars*), 2; small landholders (*jotdars*), 402; *ganthidars*, 53; ordinary cultivators, 458,515; land stewards (*gumashtas*), 757; rent-collectors (*tahsildars*), 698; village accountants (*patwaris*), 4; holders of land on a tenure of military or police service—the ancient police of Midnapur—(*paiks*), 297; village head-men (*mandals*), 192; rent-collectors in charge of estates owned by absentee landlords (*naibs*), 79. (b) With animals—Horse dealers, 9; cattle dealers, 854; goat dealers, 163; pig dealers, 56; buffalo dealers, 13; cowherds, 3902; elephant-

drivers (*mahuts*), 26; grooms, 546; grass-cutters, 16; farriers and shoeing smiths (*nalbands*), 3; hunters (*shikaris*), 42. Total of Class IV., 471,949.

CLASS V.—Persons engaged in commerce and trade :—(a) In conveyance of persons and goods—Carters, 164; bullock drivers, 242; palanquin bearers, 5182; *khalasis*, 3; seaman, 1; boatmen, 6509; warehouse keepers (*aratdars*), 65; weighmen, 255. (b) In keeping and lending money, and in the sale of goods—Bankers and *mahajans*, 2415; pawnbrokers (*poddars*), 11; money-changers, 9; cashiers, 11; money-lenders, 1408; produce merchants (*saudagars*), 48; merchants in special goods, 167; petty dealers (*beparis*), 9; storekeepers and commission agents (*goladars*), 123; shopkeepers, 10,869; petty shopkeepers (*mudis*), 1338; grocers and spice dealers (*bantias*), 440; hawkers, 183; dealers in miscellaneous goods, 2305; brokers (*dalals*), 53; clerks, 3; writers (*karanis*), 274; out-door clerks (*sarkars*), 517; vernacular clerks and writers (*muharrirs*), 1235; managers, 11. Total of Class V., 33,850.

CLASS VI.—Persons employed in mechanical arts, manufactures and engineering operations, and in the sale of goods manufactured or prepared for consumption :—(a) Manufactures—Indigo manufactures, 6. (b) Constructive arts—Contractors, 62; bricklayers (*rajmistris*), 1394; brickmakers, 79; sawyers, 404; carpenters, 1621; thatchers, 231; boat builders, 173; dock keeper, 1; ship carpenters, 5. (c) Miscellaneous Artisans—Blacksmiths (*kamars*), 3235; braziers and coppersmiths (*kansaris*), 2927; tinmen, 2; goldsmiths, 2883; gold washers, 21; potters (*kumars*), 4956; glass maker, 1; lime vendors, 138; comb makers, 74; mat makers, 618; basket makers, 2122; whip maker, 1; toy makers, 5; hookah makers, 74; grindstone makers, 207; musical instrument makers, 8; makers of lacquered ware, 87; makers of garlands, 275; carvers, 2; gilders, 4; shell carvers, 388; cane workers, 41; makers of looms, 2; cotton weavers, 26,276; wool weavers, 34; coir weavers, 16; shoemakers, 886; cloth vendors, 4701; umbrella makers, 2; waxcloth dealers, 4; gunny-bag makers, 192; net makers, 44; thread sellers, 265; blanket makers, 879; printer, 1; stationers, 13; bookbinders (*daftiris*), 35; booksellers, 13. (d) Dealers in vegetable food—Oil sellers, 3595; grain sellers, 686; flour sellers, 26; rice sellers, 146; spice sellers, 14; grain huskers, 308; bakers, 21; grain parchers, 637;

costermongers, 679; confectioners, 697; sellers of *gur*, 439; sellers of honey, 4; sellers of sugar, 28. (c) Dealers in animal food—Butchers, 47; fishermen, 4000; fishmongers, 6243; milkmen, 2452; poulterers, 84. (f) Dealers in drinks—Toddy sellers, 36; liquor shopkeepers, 143. (g) Dealers in stimulants—Tobacco sellers, 352; *pan* sellers, 1057. (h) Dealers in perfumes, drugs, medicines, etc.—Salt sellers, 270; gunpowder sellers, 49; *tika* sellers, 8. (i) Dealers in vegetable substances—Firewood sellers, 744; charcoal sellers, 132; cow-dung sellers, 3; bamboo sellers, 113; thatch sellers, 43; rope sellers, 5. (j) Dealers in animal substances—Hide dealers, 1165. Total of Class VI., 79,634.

CLASS VII.—Miscellaneous persons not classed otherwise :—Pensioners, 14; beggars and paupers, 18,998; apprentices, 12; labourers, 115,308; unemployed, 15,830; male children, 457,733. Total of Class VII., 607,895. Grand total of males, 1,257,194.

OCCUPATIONS OF FEMALES.—The general caution prefixed to the paragraphs on the occupations of the people applies with particular force to this section. Class I., *nil*. Class II., Professional persons :—Priestesses, 741; schoolmistresses, 32; midwives, 194; Muhammadan female doctors (*hakims*), 58; female vaccinator, 1; female cow-doctors, 32; musician, 1; singers, 33; jugglers, 2; dancers, 3; painters, 33—total, 1130. Class III., Females in service or performing personal offices :—Female domestic servants, 2552; cooks, 65; female gardeners, 93; female barbers, 232; washer-women, 742; female sweepers (*mihtranis*), 91; prostitutes, 1339—total, 5114. Class IV., Females employed in agriculture and with animals :—Female landlords (*zamindars*), 381; female permanent leaseholders (*patnidars*), 11; female subordinate landlords (*talukdars*), 134; female large leaseholders, 2; female cultivators, 13,229; female goat dealers, 87; female pig dealers, 2; female poultry dealers, 3; female cowherds, 25; female grass cutters, 73—total, 13,947. Class V., Females engaged in commerce and trade :—Carriage owners, 3; money-lenders, 30; retail dealers, 186; shopkeepers, 1566—total, 1785. Class VI., Females employed in manufactures, and in the sale of goods manufactured or prepared for consumption :—Dealers in pottery, 240; dealers in lime, 10; basket makers, 121; mat makers, 113; broom sellers, 2; silk dealers, 31; spinners, 6717; weavers, 552; ornament sellers, 37; shoemakers, 35; thread

sellers, 13; cloth vendors, 14; makers of lacquered ware, 8; grain dealers, 21; rice dealers, 90; costermongers, 199; dealers in spices, 57; oil dealers, 260; confectioners, 73; flour sellers, 3; grain parchers, 66; grain huskers, 6970; sellers of *gur*, 7; fish-women, 1381; milk sellers, 246; butter sellers, 7; egg sellers, 20; toddy sellers, 2; spirit sellers, 8; tobacconists, 35; *pan* sellers, 205; *ganja* sellers, 7; tooth-powder sellers, 2; charcoal sellers, 5; cow-dung sellers, 124; firewood sellers, 522; sellers of leaves, 96; sellers of straw and grass, 14; hide dealers, 5—total, 18,317. Class VII., Miscellaneous females not classed otherwise :—Female beggars and paupers, 6273; female labourers, 6809; unemployed adult females, 865,782; female children, 364,612—total, 1,243,476. Grand total of females, 1,283,769.

ETHNICAL DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE.—Midnapur being an intermediate District between Bengal and Orissa, the population possess characteristics common to the people of both provinces. Mr. H. V. Bayley, in his valuable ms. 'Memorandum on Midnapur,' dated January 1852, thus describes the population :—"The people of Midnapur proper are generally composed of an amalgamated race, who can neither be called Bengalis nor Uriyas, but who are a mixture of both. It is not intended to convey by this remark the impression that the mixture observable has been effected so much by intermarriage between the two classes, as by the adoption of manners and habits common to both. The people of Midnapur proper are of Bengal *and* Orissa. The fact is, that Midnapur is an intermediate District which the natives of Orissa cross to go to Bengal, and *vice versa*. Hence its inhabitants consist of emigrants from both parts, who have by long association with each other lost the salient points of their respective nationalities. But the Bengali emigrants appear evidently to form only a small proportion of the people, from the great prevalence of Uriya family names among all classes of society, as Behara, Giri, Jana, Mahapatra, Mahikup, Mahanti, Panda, Patnaik, etc. The common use also of Khas-khail and Sawant as family names points to another class, viz. Marhattas. The term Khas-khail was applied to soldiers of the Raja's body-guard in the time of Marhatta independence. Sawant was the family name of a numerous and distinguished

class of Marhattas. One thing, however, is apparent, viz. that the wealthy landed classes and other gentry of the country are insensibly approximating to the manners of the same class in Bengal.'

Mr. C. F. Magrath's District Census Compilation for Midnapur thus classifies the ethnical divisions of the people. The list of Hindu castes will be reproduced on a subsequent page, but arranged in a different order from that given here, according to the rank in which they are held in social esteem :—

NAME OF NATIONALITY, TRIBE, OR CASTE	Total	NAME OF NATIONALITY, TRIBE, OR CASTE	Total
I—NON-ASIATICS		2—Semi-Hinduized Aboriginals	
<i>Europeans—</i>		Bagdi,	76,285
English,	82	Bahelia,	38
Irish,	25	Bauri,	14,946
Scotch,	12	Bediya,	128
Welsh,	1	Bhuiya,	11,336
Dane,	1	Bind,	41
German,	1	Buna,	6
Total of Non-Asiatics,	122	Chain,	501
II—MIXED RACE		Chamar and Muchi,	8,544
Eurasian,	93	Chandal	24,713
III—ASIATICS		Abashan,	10,092
<i>A—Other-than Natives of India and Burmah</i>		Dom,	18,610
Afghans,	17	Turi,	4
Armenians,	2	Dosadh,	58
Total,	19	Ghasi,	66
<i>B.—Natives of India and Burmah.</i>		Hari,	21,963
I—Aboriginal Tribes.		Kaora,	4,048
Bhar,	758	Karanga,	5,662
Bhumy,	35,344	Bhaira,	2,411
Gond,	110	Kodmal,	20,031
Kharia,	2,399	Mahili,	3,497
Kharwar,	80	Mal,	5,726
Kol,	427	Mihtar,	3,904
Nat,	205	Musahar,	58
Puraon,	385	Pan,	9,709
Sabar,	1,951	Pasi,	643
Santal,	96,921	Rajbansi Koch,	17
Uraon,	528	Rajwar,	1,525
Total,	139,108	Shkari,	143
		Total,	244,705
		3.—Hindus.	
		(1.) SUPERIOR CASTES.	
		Brahman,	118,700
		Rajput,	17,003

NAME OF NATIONALITY, TRIBE, OR CASTE.	Total	NAME OF NATIONALITY, TRIBE, OR CASTE.	Total.
(i) SUPERIOR CASTES — <i>Continued</i>		(vii) CASTES ENGAGED CHIEFLY IN PERSONAL SERVICE.	
<i>Ghatwal,</i>	16	Behara and Duliya,	8,175
<i>Khandait,</i>	781	Dhanuk,	26
Total,	136,500	Dhawa,	82
(ii) INTERMEDIATE CASTES		Dhoba,	34,896
Baidya,	2,490	Hajjam and Napit,	42,249
Bhat,	1,484	Kahar,	1,193
Kayasth,	101,663	Lodha,	3,574
Total,	105,637	Total,	90,195
(iii) TRADING CASTES		(viii) ARTISAN CASTES	
Agarwala and Marwari,	13	Chitrakar,	20
Bania,	600	Darzi,	437
Gandhbanik,	10,140	Kamar,	32,348
Khatri,	1,268	Kansari,	2,224
Subarnabanik,	11,499	Kumar,	29,122
Total,	23,520	Laheri,	206
(iv) PASTORAL CASTES		Sankhar,	1,513
Gareri,	236	Sikalgir,	198
Goala,	44,163	Sonar,	5,748
Total,	44,399	Sunri,	7,418
(v) CASTES ENGAGED IN PREPARING COOKED FOOD		Sutradhar,	10,585
Ganrar,	328	Teli,	70,339
Madak,	6,010	<i>Kalu,</i>	4,901
Total,	6,338	Total,	165,059
(vi.) AGRICULTURAL CASTES		(ix) WEAVER CASTES	
Aguri,	251	Hansi,	208
Balai,	6,810	Jogi and Patua,	4,576
Barui,	7,001	Julaha or Jola,	191
<i>Tamul,</i>	9,869	Kapali,	130
Chasa Dhopa,	67	Kotal, etc,	121
Dalui,	1,425	Rangni,	874
Gharui,	14,868	Sukli,	29,353
Gola,	2,532	Tanti,	106,317
Kaibartta,	692,140	Total,	141,770
Koeri,	2,140	(x) LABOURING CASTES.	
Krishan,	25,082	Beldar,	102
Kurmi,	40,410	Chunari,	645
Mali,	6,156	Kora,	6,181
Mahat,	4,481	Kasta, etc,	9,270
Raju,	47,082	Naik,	7,860
Sadgop,	157,998	Samanta,	775
Sarak, etc.,	351	Total,	24,833
Sud,	23	(xi) CASTES OCCUPIED IN SELLING FISH AND VEGETABLES.	
Total,	1,018,686	Kunjira,	38
		Matia,	1,059
		Total,	1,097

NAME OF NATIONALITY, TRIBE, OR CASTE.	Total	NAME OF NATIONALITY, TRIBE, OR CASTE	Total
(xii) BOATING AND FISHING CASTES		(xv) PERSONS OF UNKNOWN OR UNSPECIFIED CASTES	25,346
Jalia,	29,450	GRAND TOTAL OF HINDUS,	1,902,759
Keut,	2,553		
Mahadanda,	2,064	4— <i>Persons of Hindu Origin</i> <i>not recognising Caste.</i>	
Mala,	1,895	Aghori,	72
<i>Manjhi</i> ,	37,909	Vaishnav,	96,178
Patni,	195	Nanakshahi,	43
Pod,	4	Sanyasi,	436
Tior,	16,304	Native Christians,	396
Total,	90,374	Total,	97,125
(xiii) DANCER, MUSICIAN, BEGGAR, AND VAGABOND CASTES		5— <i>Muhammadans</i>	
Baiti,	1,982	Julaha or Jola,	899
Other,	462	Mughul,	13
Total,	2,444	Pathan,	600
		Sayyid,	33
(xiv) PERSONS ENUMERATED BY NATIONALITY ONLY		Shaikh,	4,907
Bengali,	5,773	Unspecified,	150,578
Hindustani,	70	Total,	157,030
Madrasi (Telinga),	566	6— <i>Burmese</i>	
Sikh,	194	Magh,	2
Uriya,	19,958	TOTAL OF NATIVES OF INDIA,	2,540,729
Total,	26,561	TOTAL OF ASIATICS,	2,540,746
		GRAND TOTAL,	2 540,963

ABORIGINAL AND HILL TRIBES.—The aboriginal and hill tribes met with in Midnapur District are the Bhars, Bhumijis, Gonds, Kharias, Kharwars, Kols, Nats, Puraons, Sabars, Santals, and Dhangars or Uraons. Their respective numbers have been already given in the foregoing table; the total number, as ascertained by the Census of 1872, being 139,108. The semi-Hinduized aborigines, numbering 244,705 souls, will be again referred to on a subsequent page, classified in my list of the Hindu castes in Midnapur. The aboriginal tribes chiefly belong to the jungles and hills of Chhota Nagpur and Bankura, and principally inhabit the sterile jungle tracts in the west and south-west of the District.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.—A large number of Santals come to the District for employment as labourers, as also a number of Madrasis, who are employed on the irrigation works. They do not keep themselves apart from the people of the District, nor do they live in separate villages of their own,

but they do not permanently settle; and when they have made a little money, they return to their country. As in other Districts of Western Bengal, a large class of the poorer inhabitants go abroad to seek service and other employment, and after a while return to their homes. Those who go as labourers on the tea gardens of Assam, Silhet, and Kachar, however, do not as a rule return to Midnapur. The following figures, taken from the Magistrate's Office records, show the extent of emigration from Midnapur to the tea Districts during the six years ending 1869 :—Number of emigrants in 1864, 973; in 1865, 1047; in 1866 (the year of the famine), 4542; in 1867, 2023; in 1868, 579; and in 1869, 434.

CASTES.—The following is a list of 110 Hindu castes met with in Midnapur District, arranged as far as possible in the order in which they rank in local public esteem, and showing their occupation, etc. The figures indicating the number of each caste are extracted from Mr. C. F. Magrath's District Census Compilation for Midnapur. The following nine rank highest :—(1) Brahman, members of the priesthood; many are also landholders, and others are employed in Government or private service; number in 1872, according to the Census, 118,700. (2) Kshattriya, the second or warrior caste in the ancient Hindu social organization. At the present day, however, it is believed that there are no pure Kshattriyas in Bengal, and the caste given as 'Khatri' in the Census Report is the great trading class of Northern India. Their number is returned at 1268. (3) Rajput, employed in military service, and as guards, policemen, and doorkeepers. They claim to be Kshattriyas by descent; 17,003 in number. (4) Ghatwal, not a separate caste, but a class claiming to be Kshattriyas, and whose profession it was, in olden days, to guard the hill passes, and prevent the incurision of hostile or predatory tribes on to the plains. In return for this service, they received grants of land, which they held rent free. They still hold their lands free of assessment, but their military occupation has been exchanged for that of a superior sort of police, whose duty it is to keep the wild jungle people in order. Number in 1872, in Midnapur, 16. (5) Khandait, literally 'swordsmen,' a local caste of Orissa and Midnapur. Under native rule, they were employed as a militia by the chiefs and landholders. At the present day, they occupy themselves as cultivators, policemen, messengers, etc. In Midnapur District, they numbered 781 in 1872. (6) Baidya;

hereditary physicians; but many of them have now abandoned their caste occupation for that of Government officials, landed proprietors, or other respectable employments; 2490 in number. (7) Kayasth, employed as Government servants, *zamindari* revenue collectors, etc. Some of them are also well-to-do landholders, and the rest are employed in various other respectable occupations; 101,663 in number. (8) Bhat; heralds and bards. Their profession is to carry letters of invitation on occasions of marriages and funeral obsequies. They claim to be fallen Brahmans, and wear the sacred thread; but it is doubtful whether they have any well-founded claim to Brahmanhood. They are classified separately in the Census Report of 1872, in which their number is returned at 1484. (9) Marwari, or Agarwala; a wealthy class of up-country traders, who claim to belong to the Kshattriya caste; number in Midnapur District in 1872, 13.

Next in rank come the following fourteen pure Sudra castes, from whose hands a Brahman can take water or uncooked food without injury to his caste. Originally, these pure Sudra castes were only nine in number, called *nabasaks*; but some of them, such as the Banias, have split up into two or three divisions, all of whom are held in equal esteem; and others, such as the Tilis or Telis, have by their influence and wealth, forced themselves forward from a lower class into a position of social respectability :—(10) Napit; barbers; 42,249 in number. (11) Kamar; blacksmiths; 32,348 in number. (12) Kumar; potters and makers of earthen idols; 29,122 in number. (13) Tili or Teli; oil-pressers and sellers by caste occupation. They have now, however, abandoned their hereditary profession, and become landholders, traders, and grain-merchants. They are nearly all well-to-do, and have some very wealthy men among them. Number in 1872, 70,339. (14) Tambuli or Tamli; originally *pan* growers and sellers by caste occupation, but now principally employed as grain-merchants or traders, and also as landed proprietors; 9869 in number. (15) Sadgop; the highest among the cultivating castes. Some of them are small landed proprietors who till their own lands. Very few have abandoned their hereditary occupation of agriculture, and as a caste they are well-to-do. Number in 1872, in Midnapur District, 157,998. (16) Bariui; growers and sellers of betel-leaf; 7001 in number. (17) Mali; gardeners and flower-sellers; 6156 in number. (18) Banias;

traders and grain-dealers; 600 in number. (19) Gandhabanik ; grocers and spice-dealers ; an offshoot of the Banias; 10,140 in number. (20) Sankhari; shell-cutters and makers of shell bracelets; an offshoot of the Bania caste; 1513 in number. (21) Kansari; braziers and coppersmiths; another branch of the Bania caste; 2224 in number. (22) Aguri; a respectable mixed caste lately sprung up, following agriculture as a profession; 251 in number. (23) Krishan. This is not a separate caste, but rather a poorer class of the Sadgop caste, who work as agricultural day-labourers, and are paid by a share of the crop; 25,082 in number.

The intermediate Sudra castes, who are neither esteemed nor despised, but who have some claim to respectability, are the following nineteen :—(24) Gareri; an up-country pastoral caste; number in Midnapur, 236. (25) Goala; milkmen and cowherds; 44,163 in number. (26) Ganrar ; sellers and preparers of parched rice ; 328 in number. (27) Madak; sweetmeat makers; 6010 in number. (28) Kaibartta; cultivators. This is by far the most numerous caste of Midnapur District, and is returned by the Census of 1872 as numbering 692,140 souls. The Kaibarttas are probably one of the aboriginal tribes of the Chhota Nagpur hills, west of Orissa and Midnapur, and are supposed to be the same as the Bhuiyas, an undoubtedly aboriginal tribe still inhabiting the Chhota Nagpur hills and jungles. They embraced Hinduism at a very early period after the Aryans made their appearance in Bengal, and from their numbers and strength, succeeded in demanding and obtaining admission to the Hindu community on honourable terms. In ancient times, a number of Kaibarttas were made into Brahmans, and their descendants are numerous in Hugli District. The Kaibarttas of Midnapur are divided into two classes. The first follow cultivation as their occupation, and are looked upon with only less respect than one of the pure Sudra castes; while the other live by fishing, and are accordingly classed with one of the very low castes. One section of the cultivating Kaibarttas are silk-producers, and are called Tutia Kaibarttas, from the *tut* or mulberry tree, which they cultivate largely as food for the worms they rear. Midnapur District has sent many colonies of Kaibartta emigrants to the neighbouring Districts of Hugli and Bardwan, where they muster very strong along the banks of the Damodar river; and also to the 24 Parganas, on the other side

of the Hugli river. The Raja of Tamruk is a Kaibartta by caste; and as confirmatory of the opinion that the Kaibarttas and the aboriginal Bhuiyas were the same, an old tradition relates how Kalu Bhuiya, the founder of the family, usurped the throne, and was supported by a large number of kaibarttas. The family name of the Tamruk Kaibartta Rajas is Bhuiya. (29) Dalui; agriculturists; 1425 in number. (30) Gharui; cultivators; 14,868 in number. (31) Gola; cultivators; 2532 in number. (32) Vaishnav. This is not a caste, but rather a class of Hindus—followers of the teachings of the reformer Chaitanya. Nearly all the males of this sect are religious mendicants, and many of the women prostitutes. Number in Midnapur District in 1872, 96,178. (33) Chasa Dhopa; cultivators; 67 in number. (34) Koeri; cultivators. Given as a separate caste in the Census Report, but probably a branch of the Kaibarttas; 2140 in number. (35) Mahat; cultivators; a caste said to be peculiar to Midnapur; 4481 in number. (36) Raju; cultivators, and also employed in service; 47,082 in number. (37) Sarak; cultivators; 351 in number. (38) Sud; cultivators; 23 in number. (39) Balai; cultivators; 6810 in number. (40) Tanti; weavers; 106,317 in number. (41) Sonar or Swarnakar; goldsmiths and jewellers; 5748 in number. (42) Subarnabanik or Sonarbania; dealers in gold and silver, and also bankers. They are an offshoot of the Bania caste, but have become degraded in public esteem from their habit of filching from gold and jewels entrusted to their care, or to be manufactured into ornaments. Number in 1872, 11,499.

The following sixty-eight castes (Nos. 43 to 110) are the lowest castes of Hindus, and are utterly despised :— (43) Sukli; cultivators and weavers; 29,353 in number. (44) Rangini; weavers and dyers; 874 in number. (45) Lodha; labourers; 3574 in number. (46) Hansi; weavers; 208 in number. (47) Jogi and Patua; weavers; 4576 in number. (48) Julaha or Jola; weavers; 191 in number. (49) Kapali; weavers; 130 in number. (50) Kotal; weavers and cultivators; 121 in number. (51) Chitrakar; dyers; 20 in number. (52) Darzi; a Hindu caste of tailors peculiar to Orissa and Midnapur; 437 in number. (53) Laheri; makers of lac ornaments; 206 in number. (54) Sikalgir, probably not a separate caste, but a branch of the Kamars, who occupy themselves in polishing metals and arms; 198 in number. (55) Sunri or Suri; wine sellers by caste, but many have recently abandoned their

hereditary occupation, some betaking themselves to cultivation, and others to trade; 7418 in number. (56) Sutradhar or Chhutar; carpenters; 10,585 in number. (57) Kalu; oil-pressers and sellers; 4901 in number. (58) Dhanuk; labourers, and employed in service; 26 in number. (59) Dhawa; employed in service; 82 in number. (60) Dhoba; washermen; 34,896 in number. (61) Kahar; palanquin-bearers and domestic servants; 1193 in number. (62) Kunjra; not a caste, but a class who employ themselves as vegetable sellers; 38 in number. (63) Matia; sellers of fish and vegetables; 1059 in number. (64) Beldar; day-labourers; 102 in number. (65) Chunari; makers of lime from burnt shells, eaten by the people with their betel-nut and pan leaves; 645 in number. (66) Kora; earth workers, employed as labourers upon embankments; 6181 in number. (67) Kasta; labourers and cultivators; 9270 in number. (68) Naik; cultivators and labourers; 7860 in number. (69) Samanta; agricultural and day-labourers; 775 in number. (70) Kurmi; a semi-aboriginal people employed in cultivation, and also in collecting and selling jungle products; 40,410 in number. (71) Behara and Duliya. These are two separate castes; but are classified as one in the Census Report, which returns their number at 8175. Both castes are employed as palanquin-bearers and ordinary labourers; but the latter also add to their occupation that of fishermen. (72) Bagdi; cultivators, fishermen, and day-labourers; 76,285 in number. (73) Jalia; fishermen and boatmen; 29,450 in number. (74) Keut; fishermen and boatmen; 2553 in number. (75) Mahadanda; fishermen and boatmen; 2064 in number. (76) Mala; fishermen and boatmen; 1895 in number. (77) Manjhi; not a caste, but a class of boatmen who act as helmsmen. The Census gives their number at 37,909; but from this high total, it appears probable that a class of village head-men among the jungle and aboriginal people, and who have the title of Manjhis, have been included with the Manjhis who are boatmen. (78) Pod; fishermen; 4 in number. (79) Tior; fishermen and boatmen; 16,304 in number. (80) Baiti; makers of fine floor matting; 1982 in number. (81) Dom; cultivators, fishermen, and basket makers; 18,610 in number. (82) Patri; ferrymen and contractors, who farm the Government ferries. These men are held of lower rank than the other boating castes, as in the way of their trade they carry cows across the river, which is looked upon as a sin by orthodox Hindus; and

also because they take money for ferrying passengers, which ought to be done as an act of benevolence. The number of these ferrymen, in 1872, in Midnapur District, is returned in the Census Report at 195. (83) Khadal. During the period of the Government salt monopoly, these men were salt makers; but when the manufacture was abandoned by the State, these men were thrown out of employment, and most of them have taken to fishing and boating as their caste occupation. Although a separate caste, they are not classified as such in the Census Report. (84) Chandals; cultivators and labourers; 24,713 in number. (85) Behelia; a semi aboriginal caste of day-labourers; 38 in number.

The following are all semi-aboriginal castes :—(86) Bhuiya; cultivators and labourers; 11,336 in number. (87) Bauri; cultivators and labourers; 14,946 in number. (88) Bind; cultivators and labourers; 41 in number. (89) Chain; cultivators and labourers; 501 in number. (90) Abashan; cultivators and labourers; 10,092 in number. (91) Turi; musicians and dancers; 4 in number. (92) Dosadh; cultivators and labourers; 58 in number. (93) Ghasi; cultivators and labourers; 66 in number. (94) Karanga ; cultivators and labourers ; 5662 in number. (95) Bhaira; cultivators and labourers; 2411 in number. (96) Kodmal; cultivators and labourers; 20,031 in number. (97) Mahili; cultivators and labourers; 3497 in number. (98) Musahar; cultivators and labourers; 58 in number. (99) Pan; labourers; 9709 in number. (100) Pasi; toddy-makers from date juice; 643 in number. (101) Rajbansi and Koch; two branches of one semi-aboriginal caste, employed as fishermen and cultivators; 17 in number. (102) Rajwar; labourers and cultivators; 1525 in number. (103) Chamar and Muchi. These are two different castes following the same occupation, that of shoemakers and leather dealers; but they do not intermarry or intermingle in any way. The Chamars are locally said to be up-countrymen, while the Muchis belong to Lower Bengal. Number of both in 1872, 8544. (104) Mal; snake charmers; 5726 in number. (105) Kaora; swineherds; 4048 in number. (106) Hari; swineherds and sweepers; 21,963 in number. (107) Mihtar; sweepers and scavengers; 3904 in number. (108) Bediya; a wandering and gipsy-like tribe, who gain their living by bird-catching, juggling, fortune-telling, and petty thefts; 128 in number. For a further account of these people see my

Statistical Accounts of the districts of Jessor and Nadiya. (109) Shikari ; hunters and bird catchers ; 143 in number. (110) Buna ; day-labourers ; 6 in number.

The foregoing list of Hindu castes is exclusive of 25,346 persons of unknown or unspecified castes ; 26,561 persons enumerated by nationality only, and 947 persons of Hindu origin not recognising caste (except the Vaishnavs), who are included. The list also includes a large number of those returned as aboriginal tribes, who have abandoned their ancient faiths, and embraced some sort of Hinduism. There are no predatory clans or castes in Midnapur District ; and the Collector reports that no caste appears, so far as he can ascertain, to be declining either in point of rank or numbers.

THE RELIGIOUS DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE—HINDUS :—The great bulk of the population of Midnapur District are Hindus ; the remainder being Muhammadans, Christians, and hill people professing aboriginal faiths. The Hindus number 1,133,290 males and 1,152,278 females ; total, 2,285,568, or 90 per cent. of the total population : proportion of Hindu males to total Hindu population, 49.6 per cent. The members of the Brahma Samaj, or reformed theistic sect of Hindus, are included in the Census Report with the general Hindu population, and I have no means of ascertaining their separate number. The Collector reports, however, that very many of the educated natives in the towns, and one or two of the landholders, have joined the reformed faith. The Muhammadans of Midnapur District number 75,693 males ; 81,354 females ; total, 157,047, or 6.2 per cent. of the population : proportion of Muhammadan males to total Musalman population, 48.2 per cent. No Buddhists or Jains are found in Midnapur District. The Christians number 319 males and 294 females ; total, 613 : proportion of males in total Christian population, 52 per cent. The rest of the population consist of people professing various aboriginal beliefs, and are classified in the Census Report under the name of 'Others.' They consist of 47,892 males and 49,843 females ; total, 97,735, or 3.8 per cent. of the District population : proportion of males in the whole aboriginal population, 49 per cent.

THE MUHAMMADANS, as above stated, number 157,047 souls, or 6.2 per cent. of the total population of the District. The following paragraphs regarding the Musalmans of

Midnapur are from vol. II. of Dr. Mouat's Report on the Jails of the Lower Provinces for 1868, page clxxvii. :—"The Muhammadans of Midnapur are divided into two religious sects, the Sunni, and Rafzi or Shiah. Those who acknowledge Muhammad as the last and true prophet, and at the same time hold with equal respect the first four Khalifas or successors of Muhammad, namely, Abubakar, Umar, Usman, and Ali, are called the Sunnis. The difference between these and the Rafzis or Shiahs is, that the latter, whilst they acknowledge Muhammad as the true prophet, believe Ali to be his deputy and only successor, and they do not hold the other three Khalifas in the same respect as the Sunnis do. The Sunni Musalmans are divided into four classes, namely : (1) Hanifi, who follow the doctrines of one of the subsequent Khalifas named Hanifa ; (2) Shafi, the followers of the doctrines of the Khalifa Shafi ; (3) Hambali, the believers in the doctrines of Hambal ; and (4) Maliki, the followers of Khalifa Malik. Each of these Khalifas inculcated special doctrines of his own, the principles of which fall under the original faith of the Sunni. Again, among the Sunnis, the followers of Abubakar are called Sidhiki ; those of Usman, Usmani ; and those of Umar, Farughi. The Rafzis or Shiahs are subdivided into twelve sects, namely : (1) Ulvia ; (2) Abdia ; (3) Shiah ; (4) Ishakia ; (5) Zaidia ; (6) Ubbasia ; (7) Imamia ; (8) Motanasukhia ; (9) Nashia ; (10) Launia ; (11) Rajia ; and (12) Matarubbasia.

"There are no other religious distinctions among the Muhammadans. The terms Shaikh, Sayyid, Mughul, Pathan or Afghan, Malik, Mirza, Beg, Chaudhri, Hazari, Kazi, Mulla, and Mufti, met with in this District, are mere appellations illustrative of family descent. For example, the descendants of the Khalifas Abubakar, Usman, and Umar are called Shaikhs, the word Shaikh denoting nobility or high birth. The descendants of Ali are called Sayyids, being of a superior order—and they are so called, because Ali was the son-in-law of Muhammad. Next to the Sayyids come the sharifs, who are descended by intermarriage between the Sayyids and the Shaikhs. Tartars are called Mughuls for the sake of distinction. Afghans are called Pathans in this country. They came from Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries, and the title Khan is always appended to their names. Malik, Chaudhri, Hazari, are titles conferred by Nawabs and Emperors. Mirza means the son of an Amir or nobleman, and the Shiahs are

mostly called Mirza and Beg. Hazari is also a title given by the Nawabs and Emperors to the captains of a thousand horse.' The Collector reports that there are no distinct sects of Musalmans, such as Wahabis or Faraizis, in Midnapur District, and also that the religion of Islam does not appear to be making any further progress among the people.

THE CHRISTIAN population of Midnapur numbers 613 souls, namely, 319 males, and 294 females. Deducting 217 as the number of European, Eurasian, and Armenian Christians, there remains a total native Christian population of 396 souls in Midnapur. Two small rural native Christian communities are settled in the District, one consisting of a few Bengali families about twenty miles west, and another consisting of Santals, about twenty miles north-west of Midnapur town. They are all farmers, and are well-to-do. The Collector states that their social position is high for their class, and that it was so before their conversion to Christianity. The rest of the Native Christian population mostly live in the town of Midnapur, and both Christianity and the Brahma Samaj effect their principal settlements among the town population. The local mission school, built in 1860, is under the charge of a native convert. The American Mission, under the Revs. O. R. Batchelor and J. S. Philips, devotes itself to work in the town of Midnapur, and among the Santals of the neighbouring villages. It has already established several village schools, a central training school in the station of Midnapur, a girls' school for famine orphans, and a mission printing press, at which the Bible was for the first time printed in Santali. St. John's Church, in Midnapur town, was built in 1851, and consecrated by the Bishop of Calcutta in 1855. The average congregation since the church was opened in 1851 has been 20. The minister is under the Additional Clergy Society, and visits the outstations of Contai (Kanthi) in the south of Midnapur, and Diamond Harbour in the 24 Parganas district, on the opposite bank of the Hugli.

DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE INTO TOWN AND COUNTRY.—The population of the District is almost entirely rural, and the Census Report returns only four towns as containing a population of five thousand souls or upwards, namely : Midnapur, population 31,491 ; Chandrakona, population 21,311 ; Ghatal, population 15,492 ; and Tamluk, population 5849. Details of the population of these towns will be found

on the next two pages. The town population has been increasing of late years, and the Collector thinks that a tendency towards city life is perceptible on the part of the people. The city population does not furnish an undue proportion of the ordinary work of administration. The District Census Compilation thus classifies the villages and town :—There are 9173 villages containing less than two hundred inhabitants ; 2786 with from two to five hundred inhabitants ; 798 with from five hundred to a thousand ; 172 small towns with from one to two thousand ; 20 with from two to three thousand ; 6 with from three to four thousand ; 2 with from four to five thousand ; 1 town with from five to six thousand ; 1 with from ten to fifteen thousand ; 1 with from fifteen to twenty thousand ; and 2 with from twenty to fifty thousand inhabitants. One of the above, however, returned as containing from ten to fifteen thousand inhabitants, is not really a town, but merely a *mauza* or collection of villages, and is therefore not included in the tabular statement of towns given on a subsequent page. The total number of towns or large villages containing upwards of two thousand inhabitants is 32. The following is a list of the chief towns, with their detailed population, etc, as ascertained by the Census of 1872 :—

MIDNAPUR, the chief town and administrative headquarters of the District, is situated on the north bank of the Kasai river in 22° 25' 33" north latitude, and 87° 21' 45" east longitude. The town was formally declared the headquarters station of the District on the 22d September 1783. Its population has rapidly increased of late years. In 1837, Mr. Gilmore, then Magistrate of the District, returned the population of the town at 12,839, the basis of the calculation being an enumeration of the houses, and allowing five inhabitants to each. In 1869, the Experimental Census disclosed the following results :—Number of houses, 6633 ; population, males 13,581, female 14095 ; total 27,676 ; average number of souls per house, 4.17. The Regular Census of 1872 showed a still further increase of the population. The results then ascertained were as follow :—Hindus, males, 12,384 ; females, 11,447 ; total 23,831. Muhammadans, males, 3487 ; females, 3745 ; total, 7232. Christians, males, 146 ; females, 127 ; total, 273. 'Others,' males, 93 ; females, 62 ; total, 155. Total of all denominations, males, 16,110 ; females, 15,381 ; total, 31,491. The town has

been constituted a Municipality, and in 1869-70 the total municipal income amounted to £1236, 10s. and the expenditure to £1296, 15s. od. In 1871-72 the gross municipal income amounted to £1753, 18s. od., and the gross municipal expenditure to £1299, 6s. od. ; rate of municipal taxation, 1s. 1³/₈d. per head of the population.

CHANDRAKONA, situated within the Fiscal Division of the same name, in 22° 44' 20" north latitude, and 87° 33' 20" east longitude, is the second largest town in the District. Formerly it belonged to Hugli District, and was only recently transferred thence to Midnapur. The town was the site of a weaving factory in the time of the East India Company, and contained a large weaving population, who upon the withdrawal of the Company's commercial concerns, and the importation of English piece goods, were forced to give up their hereditary occupation and take to agriculture. The town is still a place of considerable trade, and is the headquarters of a police circle (*thana*). I have not been able to obtain any previous estimates of its population, but the Census Report of 1872 gives the following results :—Hindus, males, 10,396 ; females, 10,537 ; total, 20,933. Muhammadans, males, 184 ; females, 194 ; total, 378. Christians, *nil*. Grand total, males, 10,580 ; females, 10,731 ; total, 21, 311. The gross municipal income in 1871-72 amounted to £315, 6s. od., and the gross municipal expenditure to £210, 16s. od. ; rate of municipal taxation, 3¹/₂ per head of the population.

GHATAL, within Chandrakona fiscal Division, situated on the north bank of the Silai river, a short distance from the point where it empties itself into the Rupnarayan, in 22° 40' 10" north latitude, and 87° 45' 50" east longitude. This town has also been recently transferred from the neighbouring District of Hugli, and is a trading place of considerable importance. I have been unable to ascertain what its population was at any period prior to 1872, but in that year the Census Report returned its inhabitants as follows :—Hindus, males, 7427 ; females, 7703 ; total, 15,130. Muhammadans, males, 201 ; females, 160 ; total, 361. Christian, 1. Grand total, males, 7629 ; females, 7863 ; total, 15, 492. The town has been formed into a municipal corporation : in 1871-72 the gross municipal income was £463, 10s. od., and the gross municipal expenditure, £251, 0s. Od. ; rate of municipal taxation, 7d. per head of the population.

TAMLUK, the headquarters of the Subdivision of the same name is situated in the south-eastern part of the District on the banks of the Rupnarayan river, in 22° 17' 50" north latitude, and 87° 57' 30" east longitude. Tamluk was one of the places enumerated at the time of the Experimental Census of 1869, with the following results :—Number of houses, 1353 ; population, males, 2465 ; females, 2290 ; total, 4755 ; average number of inmates per house, 3.51. In 1872 the Regular Census showed that the population had increased, the number being returned as under :—Hindus, males, 2567 ; females, 2477 ; total, 5044. Muhammadans, males, 432 ; females, 368 ; total, 800. Christians, males, 3 ; females, 1 ; total, 4. 'Others,' 1. Total of all denominations, males, 3003 ; females, 2846 ; grand total, 5849. Tamluk has been created a municipality ; the municipal income in 1869-70 being £319, 11s. 10d., and the expenditure, £151, 19s. 0d. In 1871-72 the gross municipal income amounted to £426, 18s. 0d., and the gross expenditure to £338, 8s. 0d. ; rate of municipal taxation, 1s. 5½d. per head of the population. The town contains also a police station (*thana*), and is one of the principal seats of commerce in the District. In ancient times Tamluk was a famous city, and figures as a kingdom of great antiquity in the sacred writings of the Hindus. It first emerges upon history as a Buddhist maritime port, and is the place whence the Chinese pilgrim Fa Hian took shipping to Ceylon in the early part of the fifth century. Two hundred and fifty years later, another celebrated pilgrim from China, Hiouen Thsang, speaks of Tamluk as still an important Buddhist harbour, with ten Buddhist monasteries, a thousand monks, and a pillar by King Asoka, two hundred feet high. Even after the overthrow of Buddhism by Hinduism, Tamluk continued a great entrepot for maritime trade. Numerous wealthy merchants and shipowners resided here, and carried on an extensive over-sea trade. Indigo, mulberry, and silk, the costly products of Bengal and Orissa, form the traditional articles of export from ancient Tamluk ; and although the sea has long since left it, the place long continued an important maritime town. In 635 A.D. the Chinese traveller Hiouen Thsang found the city washed by the ocean ; the earliest Hindu tradition places the sea eight miles off, and it is now fully sixty miles distant. The process of land-making at the mouth of the Hugli has gone slowly but steadily on, and has left Tamluk an inland village on the banks of the

Rupnarayan river. The peasants, in digging wells or tanks, come upon sea shells at a depth of from ten to twenty feet ; and an almost forgotten name of the town, Ratnakar or Ratnabati, or the Mine of Gems, alone commemorates its former wealth. Under the rule of the ancient Peacock Dynasty of Tamluk, the royal palace and grounds are said to have covered eight miles, fortified by strong walls and deep ditches. No traces of the ancient palace are now discernible, except some ruins to the west of the palace of the present Kaibartta Raja. The present palace is built on the side of the river, surrounded by ditches, and covers the more moderate area of about thirty acres of ground.

The principal object of interest at Tamluk is a temple sacred to the goddess Barga-bhima or Kali. Various conflicting traditions relate how the temple was founded. The one most popular and acceptable to the people is as follows. In the days of King Garurdhwaj, one of the ancient Peacock Dynasty, a fisherman was employed to procure a dish of *saul* fish for the table of the king. One day, it so happened that he was unable to procure the fish, and the enraged king ordered him to be put to death. The poor fisherman managed to make his escape to the jungle, where the goddess Bhima appeared to him, and told him to lay in a stock of the fish, and dry them, and that she would restore them to life as he wanted them, by sprinkling them with the water of a certain well, which had the virtue of restoring dead things to life. The fisherman found it as the goddess had said, and daily took the fresh fish to the king. The king, however, finding that the man continued to supply him with fish daily, in season and out of season, questioned the fisherman on the subject, and extracted from him the secret of the immortal well. Whereupon the goddess, who had taken up her abode in the house of the fisherman, incensed at his having betrayed the secret, fled from the house, and assuming the form of a stone image, seated herself over the mouth of the well, so as to hide it from view. The fisherman showed the king the spot, and the latter not being able to get at the well, built the temple over the image. Other legends relate that the well, besides containing the essence of immortality, had the faculty of turning everything dipped in it into gold.

..

The temple of the goddess is situated on the bank of the Rupnarayan, and the honour of its construction is ascribed to

various persons. some say that it was built by Biswakarma, the engineer of the gods. It is generally, however, ascribed to the King of the Peacock Dynasty mentioned above, although the present royal family of Tamluk assert that the founder of their dynasty, the first Kaibartta king, was the builder of the temple. Another legend relates, how a famous merchant, named Dhanapati, the Lord of Wealth, when sailing down the Rupnarayan in his ships, anchored at Tamluk. While here he saw a man carrying a golden jug, who told him that a spring in the neighbouring jungle had turned his brass vessel into a golden one, and pointed out the well. The merchant accordingly bought up all the brass vessels in the market, transmuted them into the precious metal, sailed to Ceylon, where he sold them to the natives, and returning, built the great Tamluk temple. The skill and ingenuity displayed in the construction of the temple still attract admiration. The shrine is surrounded by a curious threefold wall. A high foundation, consisting of large logs of wood placed upon the earth in rows, covering the whole area to be occupied by the temple, and afterwards covered over with bricks and stones to a height of thirty feet, was first constructed ; and upon this the wall is built. The three folds form one compact wall, the outer and inner being built of brick, the centre one being of stone. The wall rises to a height of sixty feet above the lofty foundations, its width at the top of the foundation being nine feet. The whole is covered with a dome-shaped roof. Stones of enormous size are used in its construction, and raise the spectator's wonder as to how they were lifted into their places at a time when the aid of machinery was unknown. On the top of the temple, although dedicated to the wife of Siva, is the sacred disc (*chakra*) of Vishnu, surmounted by the form of a peacock. The idol is formed from a single block of stone, with the hands and feet attached to it. The goddess is represented standing on the body of Siva, and has four hands. The upper of the two right hands holds a threepointed spear, and the lower one a sword ; the upper left hand grasps another sword, while the lower holds the head of a demon. Many images of Vishnu surround the idol. The temple is divided into four apartments : Bara Deul, or Inner Sanctuary, containing the idols ; Jagamohan, or Hall of Audience ; Jajna-mandap, or Hall of Sacrifice ; and Nat-mandir, or Dancing Hall. A flight of stairs connects the outer gate of the temple with the public road below, and two pillars

are situated on each side of the staircase. Outside the temple, but within its enclosure, is a Kelikadamba tree, supposed to have the virtue of redeeming women from barrenness. Numbers of women flock to this tree and pray for offspring, suspending pieces of brick to the tree by ropes made out of their hair. In this way the branches of the tree are said to be covered with these curious ropes.

The dread of the anger of the goddess is great. The Marhattas, when ravaging Lower Bengal, and plundering every place that they came across, when they reached Tamluk, left it untouched, and made many valuable offerings to the temple, out of fear of the wrath of the goddess. Even the river Rupnarayan is said to still its waters as it flows by the temple, while a short distance above or below the shrine the waves are turbulent. The river has on several occasions encroached near the temple, and once reached to within five yards of the walls ; but although even the priests deserted the edifice from fear that it would be washed away, the stream was only allowed to approach within a certain distance ; as often as it passed the line the waters were forced back by the Divine Will, and the temple escaped without injury.

There is also a Vishnuvite temple at Tamluk. An ancient legend relates that King Yudhishtir had resolved to perform a great *aswamedha jagna*, or Horse Sacrifice. This ceremony consisted in sending a horse, accompanied with a large army, round the Indian world, with a challenge to all other kings to seize him if they dared. Arjun, the warrior hero of the Mahabharata, was in command of the force that accompanied the horse. When the army arrived at Tamluk, Tamrahdwaj, a son of one of the early legendary monarchs of the Peacock Dynasty, seized the horse, defeated Arjun and his army, and taking him and his friend Krishna (the ninth incarnation of Vishnu) prisoners, carried them in triumph to the town. But his father, the king, reproved him for his presumption in daring to take Krishna, who was Vishnu himself, prisoner. In order to retain Krishna and Arjun always with him, the king built a great temple and placed their images within it. These images are called Jishnu and Narayan,—Jishnu (literally, 'The Victorious') being another name of Arjun, and Narayan that of Krishna. The original temple was destroyed by the river, but the sacred images were saved, and a fresh temple was built for their reception by a woman of the *goala* caste

about four or five hundred years ago. It is still standing. In shape and construction the temple resembles that of the goddess Barga-bhima.

Tamluk, or Tamralipta, as it is called in Sanskrit, although originally a centre of Buddhism, was converted into a place of great sanctity when the latter religion was ousted by Brahmanism. Its very name bears witness to its ancient unorthodoxy, but even this has been distorted into a title of honour. Grammarians derive the word from Tamas + lipta,—literally, stained with darkness or sin. But a legend relates that it took its name from the fact that Vishnu, in the form of Kalki, having got very hot in destroying the demons, dropped perspiration at this fortunate spot, which accordingly became stained with the holy sweat (or dirt) of the god, and gave a sanctity and name to the place. A Sanskrit text speaks of it as a holy place in the following words :—*‘Tamralipta kastasyan, gurhan, tirthavarān baset ; Tatra snatwa chiradeva samyak yasyeti matpurin.’*—‘I will tell you where your sins will be destroyed. There is a great place of pilgrimage on the south of India, an ablution in which saves a man from his sins.’ As an illustration of the great sanctity of the place, a Hindu legend relates that when the god Mahadeva destroyed Daksha, the son of Brahma the Creator, the severed head of Daksha became fixed in his hand, on account of his having murdered a Brahman. he asked the advice of the gods as to how he was to get rid of the head, and was told to pay a visit to all the places of pilgrimage in the world. He then visited the sacred places, but was unable to release himself; and when employed in performing austerities in the Himalayas as a penance for his sin, Vishnu appeared to him and told him to visit the place of pilgrimage at Tamralipta, which he had formerly omitted. Mahadeva immediately set out, and on arriving at the place, bathed in a small pool between the temples of Barga-bhima and Jishnu-Narayan, and immediately Daksha’s head fell from his hand. This place was hence called Kapal-mochan, or the Release of the Head, and became a great place of pilgrimage. In course of time, however, the river washed away the site. Pilgrims, however, still bathe themselves in the river, on the spot where the old Vishnuvite temple formerly stood, during the Baruni festival.

The earliest kings of Tamluk belonged to the Peacock Dynasty, and were Kshattriyas by caste. The last of this line,

Nisankha Narayan, died childless, and at his death the throne was usurped by a powerful aboriginal chief named Kalu Bhuiya, and who was the founder of the line of Kaibartta or Fisher-kings of Tamluk. The Kaibarttas are generally considered to be descendants of the aboriginal Bhuiyas, who have embraced Hinduism. The present Raja, a Kaibartta, is the twenty-fifth in the descent from the aboriginal Bhuiya founder. I have referred to Tamluk at some length here, as it is the only place in Midnapur District concerning which we have any ancient history. A further account of the place under English rule will be found on a subsequent page, when I come to treat of the Fiscal Divisions of the District.

OTHER TOWNS.—The other towns, principal manufacturing or trading villages, and places of importance in Midnapur District, are as follows :—Narajol, the principal village in the Fiscal Division of the same name, situated on the banks of a small stream called the Palaspai, in $22^{\circ} 34' 8''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 39' 4''$ east longitude, and the village of Kayapat, are noted as the seats of a large manufacture of cotton cloth. Daspur, a police station and village in Chitwa Fiscal Division, situated in $22^{\circ} 36' 20''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 45' 50''$ east longitude; Kasiari, a village in Gangneswar Fiscal Division, in $22^{\circ} 7' 25''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 16' 20''$ east longitude; and Anandpur, in $22^{\circ} 14' 40''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 44' 20''$ east longitude. At these three villages, silk cultivation and manufacture are carried on to a considerable extent. Raghunathpur, a police station and village in Pataspur Fiscal Division, situated in $21^{\circ} 41' 50''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 35' 30''$ east longitude; and Kasijora, the principal place in the Fiscal Division of the same name, situated in $22^{\circ} 17' 20''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 22' 45''$ east longitude, contain colonies of mat makers, who make the fine qualities of mats which are largely exported to Calcutta as flooring mats for the houses of European residents. The village of Nawada, situated in $22^{\circ} 35' 30''$ north latitude, and $87^{\circ} 30' 0''$ east longitude, is noted for the manufacture of a superior quality of cane sugar. The foregoing towns, or rather villages, are not separately mentioned in the Census Report. They contain an estimated population of between two thousand and three thousand souls, and may be properly classified as belonging to the rural, and not to the urban, population.

Before passing finally from the subject, it may be as well to exhibit at a glance the proportion of the town population to the general inhabitants of the district. The Census Report only returns four towns in Midnapur District as containing a total population exceeding five thousand souls. The total urban population thus disclosed amounts to 74,143, leaving a balance of 2,466,820 as forming the rural population. The dwellers in the towns, therefore, only amount to 2.9 per cent. of the total population of the District. The Muhammadans, who throughout Midnapur amount to only 6.2 of the general inhabitants, furnish 11.8 per cent. of the population in the four towns containing upwards of five thousand souls. The Hindus furnish 87.5 per cent of the town population; the remaining .7 per cent. being furnished by Christians and 'others,' almost exclusively belonging to Midnapur town, as the table on next page shows.

SEA-SIDE WATERING PLACES.—Attention has repeatedly been called to the suitability of different localities on the Midnapur and Orissa Coast as watering places and sanatoria for Calcutta during the hot summer months. The two places in Midnapur District brought forward as possessing peculiar advantages in this respect are Birkul and Chandpur, but nothing has yet been done towards providing proper accommodation for travellers. Birkul is situated on the sea coast in the south of the District, near the northern boundary of the Orissa district of Balasor, in 21° 40' 40" north latitude, and 87° 32' 0" east longitude. It is distant about twentysix miles from the Subdivisional station of Contai (Kanthi), with which it is connected by a road. The place has long been known as a pleasant retreat from the heat of Calcutta, and in the last century was a favourite summer resort of Warren Hastings. It has a delightful cool sea breeze; the only drawback being a scarcity of fresh water, which has to be brought from a considerable distance, and even then is not entirely free from brackishness. Chandpur is situated a few miles higher up the coast than Birkul, and is distant fourteen miles from Contai (Kanthi), and thirty-two miles from Kedgerree (Khejiri), with a fair-weather road leading to it. The place lies above inundation level, and is said to possess more advantages as a sanatorium than Birkul. It is situated a short distance

[*Sentence continued on page 57*

RETURN OF POPULATION IN TOWNS CONTAINING MORE THAN 5000 INHABITANTS IN
MIDNAPUR DISTRICT.

Names of Towns	Hindus	Muhamma- dians	Christians	Others	Total	Gross Municipal Income			Gross Municipal Expenditure			Rate of Taxation per Head		
						£	s	d	£	s	d	s	d	d
Midnapur,	23,831	7,232	273	155	31,491	1,753	18	0	1,299	6	0	1	1	1 1/2
Chandrakona,	20,933	378			21,311	315	6	0	210	16	0	0	0	3 1/2
Ghatal.	15,130	361	1		15,492	436	10	0	251	0	0	0	0	7
Tamluk,	5,044	800	4	1	5,849	428	18	0	338	8	0	1	1	5 1/2
Total,	64,938	8,771	278	156	74,143	2,959	12	0	2,099	10	0	Av	0	9 1/2

inland, and possesses a fine turf lawn, half a mile long by three hundred yards broad, on almost any part of which excellent fresh water is to be got by digging. The sea is visible from this raised lawn, below which, and within three hundred yards of it, is a beach of firm hard sand, stretching for miles on either side. Water-carriage is available almost to the very spot; and during the hot summer months there is a delightfully cool sea breeze, day and night.

VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS.—In a purely rural District like Midnapur, the indigenous village corporations still retain a considerable proportion of their ancient vitality. The Magistrate reports that there is not a single village in the District which has not its regularly constituted head-man. In some cases the same man is the head of two or more small villages situated close to each other; and in the case of large villages, there are often two or more head-men, one for each *mahalla* or ward. The institution of village heads in Midnapur District was in existence long previous to British rule, and it is a general belief that in the time of the Muhammadan administration of the country, these officers were appointed by the Government direct. In those days, from all accounts, these head-men had considerable power and influence, and were, to a very great extent, independent of the landholders (*zamindars*). They were allowed to dispose of petty cases themselves. Village disputes were in the first instance brought before them, and only those which they failed to settle were sent up for decision to a higher authority. At present, they are to a great extent, and throughout almost the whole District, mere creatures of the *zamindars*. There are five designations by which the village head-men are known—*baruas*, *mukhyas*, *mandals*, *amins*, and *pradhans*. In some instances son has succeeded father in the office of village head-man for two or more generations; but the office cannot be called hereditary, as each succeeding appointment is made by the *zamindar*. Not unfrequently the villagers nominate the candidate, but the confirmation of the appointment rests with the *zamindar*. In former times the office of head-man of a village was a post of honour very much sought after, as the holder was looked upon as the real chief of the village, and possessed considerable power. At the present time, however, this influence has much

decreased, especially near the towns, where our Courts are easily accessible. The following brief account of the head-men in different parts of the District, their duties, responsibilities, and remuneration, and also of the other village officials, etc., is mainly compiled from a Report drawn up by Babu Kali Prasanna Rai Chaudhri, Deputy Collector of the District, and dated July 1873 :—

(1) THE BARUA is the head-man of a village in the Hijili portion of the District. He acts as foreman on the part of the villagers in all important matters, and waits on and assists the police officers and revenue officers when employed on duty in or near his jurisdiction, and furnishes all information called for from him by those officers. For these duties he receives pecuniary gifts as a token of regard from the villagers on their marriages or other religious occasions, and the *zamindars* also allow him slight remissions in his rent. The official position and remuneration of the *barua* has undergone considerable modifications of late years. At the time of the settlement of Hijili, these officers attracted the notice of Government, and received an allowance of one half per cent. of the village assessment (*jamabandi*), secured by certificates or *chhars*, which were much prized by the holders. The duties for which the certificate granting the commission of half per cent. was given, were the following :— The *barua* was expected to preserve boundary marks and records of the fields, and to point them out when required ; to attend any officer of Government ; share in some measure with the *chaukidar* or village watchman the task of keeping order ; and to aid in the internal administration of the village. This direct commission or salary from Government was subsequently done away with ; but the *baruas* still receive the amount, or its equivalent, from the landholders, ordinarily in the shape of a deduction from the rent payable by them to the *zamindars*. The appointment and dismissal of *baruas*, which was formerly made by the *zamindars*, with the general consent of the villagers, now rests with the Collector and Magistrate of the District, by whom registers of them are kept. The special duties of the *barua*, in common with all other village head-men, required by Government in connection with the criminal administration of the country, are laid down in Section 90 of

the Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X. of 1872. He is required to immediately communicate to the nearest Magistrate ; or to the officer in charge of the nearest Police Station, any information which he may obtain respecting—(1) The residence of any notorious receiver or vendor of stolen property in the village ; (2) The arrival within the limits of such village of any person or persons known or reasonably suspected of being a *thag* or robber ; (3) The commission or intention to commit *sati* (the self-sacrifice of a widow on the funeral pyre of her husband), or other non-bailable offence, at or near such village ; and (4) The occurrence of any sudden or unnatural death.

(2) THE MUKHYA is the head-man of a village in the permanently settled parts of the District ; what the *barua* does in Hijili is done by the *mukhya* in other parts of Midnapur. His appointment and dismissal, however, rest with the *zamindar* ; and he gets no salary or remission of rent from the *zamindar*, but is only regarded and respected by the villagers, and receives honorary presents on their marriages and other religious occasions.

(3) THE MANDAL is also the head-man of a village, chiefly in the jungly western tract. Being the tenant-in-chief, he sees to the cultivation of the village lands, and to the settlement of under tenants on them. In some parts of the District the mandal is the same as the *mukhya* described above.

(4) THE AMIN is an officer belonging to the establishment of the landholder (*zamindar*). His chief duty is to measure lands of cultivators in cases of dispute among themselves about boundaries, etc., or for the purpose of assessing rent on them on the part of the *zamindar*. There is also in every village or union of villages a principal husbandman who is called *amin*, whose customary duty it is, like that of the *mukhya*, to give receipts certifying service of court processes in his jurisdiction, and to wait on and help the police or other public officers in their public inquiries regarding offences, revenue matters, etc. The *atgharia* is an officer performing the same functions in the Hijili tract as the *amin* does in the other portion.

(5) THE BHADRA is an officer selected by the general consent of the villagers to be the general referee. He, sitting with the

mukhya, settles all disputes between the villagers. He is the object of special regard and respect in the village, and on marriages and other occasions of religious ceremony he receives some token of respect from the villagers, which is ordinarily in the shape of betel leaves and nuts.

(6) THE GURU OR SPIRITUAL GUIDE is ordinarily a Brahman, though there are isolated cases where men of other castes exercise the functions, such as the Gosain family in Pargana Gopiballabhpur. The duty of a *guru* is to inform his disciple of the deity to whom he should devote himself, and generally to give him a moral and spiritual education.

(7) THE PUROHIT or Village Priest is usually a Brahman. He worships the idols in the houses of his constituents, and utters the sacred formula (*mantras*) at marriages, funeral rites, and other religious and social ceremonies. He is paid by a money remuneration called *dakshina*. The rice and fruits offered to the deities and dead ancestors in funeral rites (*bhujji*), and the offerings made at the time of worshipping (*naibidya*), are also given to him.

(8) THE NAIB is the deputy or representative of the landholder, placed in charge of the whole or a part of the *zamindari* or estate, with a view to its general management. He resides generally in the midst of the estates under his management, and has a staff of ministerial officers (*muharrirs* and *peons*) to assist him. The designation *naib* has now been changed into 'superintendent' in some large *zamindaris*, such as Sujamuta, Jalamuta, and Midnapur Fiscal Divisions. These officers generally receive high salaries, sometimes rising as high as £240 a year.

(9) THE GUMASHTA OR TAHSILDAR is an inferior officer under the *naib* or superintendent, and employed chiefly in the collection of rents, and in keeping the accounts of the estate, etc. The *chital* is a peon or messenger under a *gumashta* or *tahsildar* who collects rents directly from the cultivators. *Sarbarahkar* is literally a supplier. The term is commonly used to designate an officer employed by *zamindars* to collect rents from their husbandmen. He is virtually a *tahsildar* under another name.

(10) THE PATWARI is a village official appointed under Regulation XII. of 1817. His principal duties, as laid down in

this regulation, were : (1) To keep such registers and accounts relating to the village or villages to which he is appointed, in such manner and form as has heretofore been the custom, or in such other mode as may be hereafter prescribed by the Board of Revenue ; together with such further registers and accounts as he may be directed to furnish. (2) To prepare and deliver, at the expiration of every six months, a complete copy of the aforesaid accounts, showing distinctly the produce of the *kharif* (rice) and *rabi* (winter crop) harvests. Patwaris in Midnapur District are only met with in Pataspur Fiscal Division. These officials are nominated by the *zamindars*, and appointed and removed or dismissed by the Collector. They are paid by the *zamindars* either in money or by rent-free lands called *patwari jagir*. Their duties had gradually fallen into desuetude ; but an attempt has lately been made to revive this class of village officials.

(11) THE CHAUKIDAR is the village watchman. He is appointed by the *zamindar*, and is paid in money, grain, or by service land. Besides performing his watch duties, apprehending thieves, etc., he is bound to give information of offences, and to assist the police.

(12) SARDAR is the head of the police *paiks*, and supervises them. He is paid by service lands which he holds rent free, and which are included in the *paikan* lands alluded to on a subsequent page under the head of tenures.

(13) SIMANDAR OR DIGWAR is another head of the police *paiks*, and is also remunerated by *paikan* service lands. The *digwar* is also a kind of road police functionary ; and the *simandar* most probably derived his name from the fact of its being a part of his duty to escort travellers through his village from one boundary (*simana*) to the other.

(14) PAIK, as distinguished from the police *paiks*, described on a subsequent page under the head of Police, is the name of a special servant of the *zamindar* or other rich man. He keeps watch over the house of his employer at night, and does all other duties performed by a *darwan*, or door-keeper.

(15) NAGDI is another name of a menial servant of the *zamindar* in Midnapur, called a *piyada* in other Districts. He is engaged in collecting rents and debts due to his

employer, and serves also as a *paik* or orderly. Neither he nor the preceding, however, can properly be termed a village official.

(16) CHAUDHRI.—Two or three men in the town of Midnapur are called *chaudhris*. They supply carts, etc. to private individuals and for Government service, and are paid by a small fee from each cartman. There are no regular salaried or commissioned *chaudhris* in Midnapur District.

(17) THE KAYEL is a person whose business is to weigh or measure grain. He is frequently found at market places where large quantities of grain are sold ; but not usually in the smaller villages. He is generally paid in kind by either the buyer or seller, or by both.

(18) THE KAZI of the present times merely performs the Muhammadan marriage ceremonies ; his position, therefore, is only that of a Muhammadan priest. Formerly he was appointed by Government to administer both civil and criminal justice. His judicial functions ceased under the British rule.

(19) THE MAHAJAN is the village merchant and usurer. In his latter avocation he makes advances of grain or money to the cultivator, the rate of interest being generally 50 per cent. in the case of paddy, and $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in that of money. Paddy is borrowed in the sowing or growing season, and the debt is discharged after harvest. Poor people suffered much oppression at the hands of *mahajans* in former times. When once in debt, such people could never extricate themselves from their clutches. A better state of things, however, is now gradually making its appearance.

(20) GANAK OR ACHARJA.—These are astrologers and fortunetellers. They pretend to a knowledge of the destiny of each person, and of the past, present, and future state of things in the world. Each, however, professes skill in some special mode of calculation. He is eagerly sought after by the villagers to tell them how to set about searching for things missing or lost, and how they may be recovered ; to give accounts of the health of absent relatives, and to prescribe a propitious moment for the commencement of important business, and so forth. The smallest remuneration that he gets consists

of two pounds of rice and a betel-nut, or a pice and a betel-nut. He finds the women more credulous than the men, and he is wise enough generally to arrive at conclusions, after making some pretended calculations, which will be agreeable to his inquirer. In old times *ganaks* obtained rent-free lands from the *zamindars*, called *ganakottar*. The number of *ganaks* or *acharjyas* in Midnapur District is returned, in the Census Report of 1872, at 196.

(21) THE NAPIT is the village barber, and is generally paid in kind. He receives presents on occasions of particular religious ceremonies, at marriages and social festivals. Letters of invitation on occasions of marriage and of *annaprasan* (i.e. the ceremony of giving boiled rice to an infant for the first time), *churakaran* (a ceremony at which the infant child's head is shaved throughout, and the lower parts of its ears are pierced, and golden rings, etc. inserted into them), and *upanayan* (investiture with the sacred or Brahmanical thread), are ordinarily distributed through the barber. The females of the barber caste are employed in cutting the nails of the native females, and decorating their feet with the paint called *alta*; they are called *napitanis*. The Census Report returns the number of adult males of this caste at 6175.

(22) THE DHOBA is the village washerman, and is paid either in kind or by a small annual salary in money. Besides his regular business of cleaning and washing clothes, the *dhoba* in Midnapur does not appear to have any other special duties in connection with native social matters. Number of adult males, 6306.

(23) THE PARAMANIK is the head-man among the lower castes of the people. He decides questions affecting their caste and other social matters, and receives in return respect and tokens of attention from them in the shape of presents in money, grain, or clothes. His influence over them is great.

(24) SUTRADHAR OR CARPENTER. It is not every village that has a carpenter. These and other artisans are principally found in the large villages. The village carpenters are not generally men of much skill, and their work is chiefly confined to making rough door-frames, cart wheels, bedstead frames,

and other things of the kind. Some of them who also make idols, are called *karigars* or artists. The number of adult males of the carpenter caste is returned at 1621 in Midnapur District.

(25) KAMAR, SWARNAKAR, KANSARI, KUMAR, AND PATIDAR.—These are the other village artisans. The *kamar* or blacksmith is more commonly found than the carpenter, and his services are in greater demand. The chief business of the blacksmith is to prepare the ploughshare, rake, spade, and other implements of agriculture. He is also the slayer of animals offered in sacrifice to the gods. The Census Report returns the number of adult males of this caste at 3235. The *swarnakar* is the goldsmith and jeweller ; number of adult males, 2883. The *kansari* is the brazier and coppersmith ; number of adult males, 2927. The *kumar* is the potter ; and there being greater demand for their work, are more numerous than the other artisan castes, the number of adult males being returned at 4956. The *patidar* is the painter, but is not met with in every village. He paints idols and mythological pictures ; number of adult males, 1022. The village artisans are almost always paid in money. They do not receive a fixed salary, but are paid for their work, either by the piece or the day, by those who require their services. The painter, however, is sometimes paid partly in kind and partly in money.

(26) THE MALI OR MALAKAR is the individual whose chief business it is to supply the villagers with flowers. On the occasion of a marriage he supplies coronets made of *sola* or pith for the use of the bridegroom and bride, and imitation flowers mounted with glistening talc for the lamp-light decorations. He is generally paid in money.

(27) BAJAWALAS OR BAJANDARS are people who play musical instruments, including the drum, etc., on ceremonial occasions, such as the first eating of rice, investiture with the sacred thread, ear-boring, marriage, worship, etc. They are paid in money, and are fed during the time of their employment by those who employ them.

(28) THE JHARANDAR sweeps places where large markets are held. He is usually paid for his labour by small portions of the vegetables or other articles exposed for sale, and which he collects from each vendor.

(29) **KIRTANIAS** are a special band of singers, whose profession is considered holy, and who are usually paid in money. It is a common practice in this District for the corpses of grown-up persons, or rather of persons of advanced age, when sent to the burning places, to be accompanied by *kirttania*s, who go along with them, reciting holy names and singing holy songs all the way.

(30) **THE GUNIN OR GUNI** is a person who exorcises people believed to be possessed by an evil spirit, or under the influence of a witch ; also houses which have the reputation of being haunted, or individuals who have been bitten by poisonous snakes. The villagers place superstitious confidence in a *gunin*, and credit him with the power of counteracting the evil effects of charms and incantations. He is generally remunerated in money.

(31) **THE SAPURIA** or snake-charmer catches venomous snakes, and earns money, rice, or cloth, by playing with them before the villagers. He also sells the poison, which is used in the preparation of certain native medicines called *bishbari*, etc. The snake-charmer pretends to be able to attract snakes to any place he likes by playing a flute, called *turmi* or *tubri*, and by uttering magical formulæ, *mantras*. He surprises the spectators by his skill in concealing the snake he brings with him somewhere under his clothes, or in a cloth bag, and by then throwing it into the house undetected, and then catching it again as a new snake found on the premises.

THE MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE of Midnapur is substantially the same as that of the mass of the population of Lower Bengal. The great body of the people, if they only have their bodily wants tolerably well supplied, consider themselves well off, and care for little else. Their standard of comfort is not high. A mud hut, a few earthen pots, a cloth to cover themselves with, a meal of rice, with occasional vegetables and fish, and above all a hookah, are sufficient to content the peasant castes. In the towns, the people here, as elsewhere, seem to have a keener appreciation of the advantages of wealth, possibly in proportion to their means of amassing it ; and the town's-folk dress better, and are generally more comfortable than the country people.

The ordinary dress of a well-to-do man of the shopkeeping class, consists of a cloth wound round the loins and passing between the legs from front to back, where it is tucked in at the waist (*dhuti*), and a cotton sheet or shawl (*chadar*) worn as a scarf over the shoulders. An ordinary husbandman usually wears a waist-cloth (*dhuti*) and a small scarf over the shoulders (*gamcha*), but of coarser stuff than that worn by the shopkeeper. In the towns, the shopkeeper generally lives in a brick-built house consisting of one or two rooms ; his furniture consists of a few wooden boxes and leather-covered baskets, with several mats for sitting and sleeping on, and some earthenware, brass and bell-metal cups and plates for cooking and eating purposes. In a country village, however, his house is generally built of either mud or mat walls, and thatched with straw ; the articles of furniture in a country shopkeeper's house are fewer and of less value than those in the towns. An average cultivator lives in a straw-thatched mud or mat hut ; his furniture is of the most primitive sort, and consists simply of a box and basket or two, a rough mat, a few earthen pots for cooking, and one or two metal cups and plates. The ordinary articles of food consumed by the family of a well-to-do shopkeeper, are rice, pulses, vegetables, and occasionally fish. The Collector estimates the monthly living expenses of an average-sized household of this sort at about £2, including clothing. The cultivators eat rice and pulses of a coarser kind, and fewer vegetables, fish, and sweetmeats. The estimated cost of living for a middle-sized family of this class is said to be about £1 a month, including clothing. This estimate, however, is based on the assumption that the cultivator has to purchase everything required for his consumption. The money cost, however, is much less, as he grows rice and vegetables for his own consumption, and catches most of the fish he uses, either himself or by his family.

AGRICULTURAL.—Six different descriptions of rice are grown in Midnapur District. *Aus*, or autumn rice, consists of the following sixteen chief varieties :—(1) *Anatrakha*, (2) *patkuri*, (3) *satargunchapa*, (4) *durga-bhog*, (5) *asram sal*, (6) *berehati*, (7) *ashadalai*, (8) *tethua*, (9) *ketachati*, (10) *asamla*, (11) *jhinga-sal*, (12) *chali*, (13) *sultanchapa*, (14) *asmuti*,

(15) *asgangajal*, (16) *patsal*. This crop is sown broadcast on dry land in the months of April, May, and June (Baisakh, Jaishtha, and Ashar), and reaped in August and September (Bhadra and Aswin). *Haimanti*, or *aman*, is the winter rice crop, and consists of the following thirty-one varieties :—(1) *Kata-dhan*, (2) *kelekata-dhan*, (3) *bhomar kanu*, (4) *patna*, (5) *lausalkata*, (6) *hemta*, (7) *donarguri*, (8) *dhulia*, (9) *bangi*, (10) *draupadisal*, (11) *ramsal*, (12) *benaphul*, (13) *nagari*, (14) *ghaskandi*, (15) *rupsal*, (16) *nana*, (17) *jhinga sal*, (18) *kaia*, (19) *kalindi*, (20) *bakui*, (21) *kasiphul*, (22) *kala kartik*, (23) *gauri-kajal*, (24) *rabansal*, (25) *bibhishansal*, (26) *chauddakhopa*, (27) *raj-kisor*, (28) *natkan*, (29) *rangi*, (30) *harina-khuri*, (31) *bhuri*. This crop is sown in the months of June, July, and August (Ashar, Bhadra, and Aswin), and reaped in November and December (Agrahayan and Paush). The seed is first sown in nurseries, and afterwards transplanted into fields prepared for it. Another variety of *haimanti* or *aman* rice is also grown in Midnapur, and is sown broadcast and not transplanted. It is sown in April and May (Baisakh and Jaishtha), and reaped in November and December (Agrahayan and Paush). Its twenty-seven principal varieties are as follow :—(1) *Krishna bhog*, (2) *haldiguri*, (3) *sankar bhog*, (4) *Ram chandra bhog*, (5) *daina guri*, (6) *sankar chini*, (7) *kaijira*, (8) *magur bicha*, (9) *bangi*, (10) *dhulia*, (11) *kumradal*, (12) *geri komal*, (13) *kataktara*, (14) *kanak chur*, (15) *ganga tulsi*, (16) *ramsal*, (17) *jhinga sal*, (18) *sundar sal*, (19) *chamardal*, (20) *gaya bali*, (21) *parijat*, (22) *nuna*, (23) *khepa-jhinga*, (24) *bakui*, (25) *sonatar*, (26) *gandh-malati*, and (27) *randhani-pagal*. *Nuan* is the name of another description of rice, consisting of the five following principal varieties :—(1) *kalikasiphul*, (2) *muktahar*, (3) *saljhati*, (4) *kasiphul*, and (5) *kiluaganti*. This crop is sown upon high-lying dry land in the months of May and June (Jaishtha and Ashar), and harvested in October and November (Kartik and Agrahayan). The rice is first sown broadcast in a nursery, and afterwards transplanted in specially prepared fields. *Boro* rice is sown broadcast on low marshy land in October or November (Kartik), and cut in March and April (Phalgun and Chaitra). The other two varieties of rice grown in Midnapur are *katvi* and *jhanji*, both of which are sown on high-lying land in May

and June (Jaishtha and Ashar), and cut in September and October (Aswin and Kartik). Besides rice, the only other cereals grown in the District are wheat and barley, both of which are sown on dry land in October (Kartik), and reaped in March and April (Phalgun and Chaitra).

GREEN CROPS.—The following are the principal green crops, such as pulses, oil-seeds, etc., cultivated in Midnapur District :—(1) *Matar* or peas (*pisum sativum*) ; *biri*, a kind of pea ; *rama*, a kind of pea ; *chhola* (*cicer ariclinum*), *mug* (*phascolus mungo*) ; *tisi* or linseed (*linum usitatissimum*) ; *musuri* (*cicer lens*) ; *sarisha* or mustard (*sinapis dichotoma*) ; *arhar* (*cytissus cajan*) ; *khesari* (*lathyrus sativus*). These are all winter crops sown on dry lands from which the *aus* or autumn rice crop has just been taken, and are cut or gathered about February or March. Four varieties of *til* seed (*sesamum orientale*) are grown, namely, *krishna til* and *sanki til*, sown in jungle land in June and July (Ashar and Sraban), and gathered in November and December (Agrahayan and Paush) ; *khasla til*, sown in sugar-cane fields in March and April (Phalgun and Chaitra), and cut in June (Ashar) ; and *bhadu til*, sown on jungle land in May and June (Jaishtha and Ashar), and cut in August and September (Bhadra and Aswin). The fibre crops consist of flax (*pat*) and hemp (*son*), sown on high land in May and June (Jaishtha and Ashar), and cut in August and September (Bhadra and Aswin).

MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.—Sugar-cane (*ikshu*), sown on rather high land in April and May (Chaitra and Baishkh), and cut in February and March. Indigo (*nil*) is sown on all kinds of land, except paddy. There are two seasons for sowing, called respectively the spring and autumn sowings. The sowing takes place in September and October (Aswin and Kartik), and the plant is cut in July and August (Sraban and Bhadra). *Pan*, or betel-leaf, sown on black soil in June (Ashar), and plucked in July and August (Sraban and Bhadra) of the following year. Cotton (*kapas*), sown on high lands in May and June (Jaishtha and Ashar), and cut in September and October (Aswin and Kartik). Mulberry (*tut*), planted on homestead land in September and October (Aswin and Kartik), and the leaves gathered as food for silk-worms in May and June (Jaishtha and Ashar). *Joar*, *bajra*, *kaong*, all sown on homestead or high

lands in May and June (Jaishtha and Ashar), and cut in August and September (Bhadra and Aswin).

RICE CULTIVATION.—No improvement has taken place of late years in the quality of rice grown in Midnapur District, but a considerable extension is visible in the area of rice cultivation within the last twenty years. A large portion of the District, which a few years ago was covered with jungle, has been cleared and put under rice. The Collector estimates that the area of rice-growing lands has increased about fifty per cent. during the last twenty years. The various names of rice in its different stages are as follow :—*Bij*, the seed; *ankur*, the germinated seed; *bij-dhan*, the young sprouts; *phul*, the plant when it flowers; *dudh gachh*, the plant when the grain has begun to form in the ear; *dhan*, paddy; *chaul*, husked rice; *bhat*, boiled rice. The preparations made from rice are :—(1) *Muri*; paddy steeped in cold water for a day or two, then boiled, and a second time steeped in water; it is then dried in the sun, husked, and afterwards parched. It is sold at about three-halfpence a pound. (2) *Khai*; paddy parched and husked; sold at about three-halfpence a pound. (3) *Chira*; paddy first steeped in water, then partially parched and husked, after which it is beaten flat in the rice-pounder; price about the same as *khai* or *muri*. (4) *Hurum*, or *chaul bhaja*; parched rice; sold at the same price as the foregoing. (5) *Pitha*; cakes made of rice flour; these are made in the houses of the people for home consumption, and are never sold in the bazar. The liquid preparations of rice are : (1) *Pachwai*, or fermented rice beer, price about three-halfpence a quart; and (2) *mad*, common country spirit, distilled from rice; price about a shilling a quart.

AREA, OUT-TURN OF CROPS, ETC.—The present area of the District, after the transfer of Chandrakona and Barda Fiscal Divisions from the neighbouring District of Hugli to Midnapur, is returned at 5082 square miles. These transfers were made in July 1872, and my information does not show the proportion of cultivated to cultivable and waste land within them. Excluding these *parganas*, the Collector returns the area at 4836 square miles, or 3,095,040 acres. Of this area, 4302.13 square miles, or 2,753,360 acres, are returned as under cultivation; about 156.25 square miles, or 100,000 acres, as

uncultivated, but capable of being brought under tillage ; and 377.62 square miles, or 241,680 acres, as uncultivable and jungle land. The Collector approximately classifies the area under different crops as under :—Rice, 2,709,923 acres ; pulses, oil-seeds, fibres, sugarcane, and other crops, 43,437 acres : total, 2,753,360 acres, or 4302.12 square miles. The former Statistics of the Board of Revenue furnished to me for 1868-69 give a more detailed estimate ; but although there is a very great discrepancy in the area stated to be under rice cultivation as compared with that returned by the Collector, I reproduce it as exhibiting the approximate area occupied by other crops :—Rice, 1,002,000 acres; other food grains, 530,500 acres; oil-seeds, 39,000 acres; sugar, 128,000 acres; cotton, 8000 acres; indigo, 40,000 acres; fibres, 150,000 acres; tobacco, 200 acres; vegetables, 88,000 acres : total, 1,985,700 acres, or 3120.65 square miles. It must be remembered that both these estimates are exclusive of the recent transfer of Chandrakona and Barda Fiscal Divisions from Hugli to Midnapur, both of which are densely populated and closely cultivated. The Collector estimates a fair average out-turn from land paying a rental of Rs. $1/8$ a *bigha*, or 9s. an acre, to be about twelve *maunds* of paddy a *bigha*, valued at Rs. 8; or twenty-six hundredweights an acre, valued at £2, 8s. 0d. In addition to this, a second crop of pulses or oil-seeds, valued at Rs. $2/8$ a *bigha*, or 15s. an acre. Including the value of the straw, which may be set down at about Rs. 2 a *bigha*, or 12s. an acre, the total value of the produce of land paying the above rate of rent would be Rs. $12/8$ a *bigha*, or £3, 15s. 0d. an acre. From very superior descriptions of rice land, paying a rent of Rs. 3 a *bigha*, or 18s. an acre, and not yielding any second crop, the Collector estimates a fair out-turn would be about thirty-two *maunds* of paddy per *bigha*, worth Rs. 21; or about 70 cwts. per acre, worth £6, 6s. 0d. Including the value of the straw, the total value of the produce of this description of land would be about Rs. 25 a *bigha*, or £7, 10s. 0d. an acre. This, however, is an unusually high estimate.

CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY.—A cultivator's holding exceeding thirty-three acres of all descriptions of land would be considered a very large-sized farm; less than six or seven acres is looked upon as a small holding. A farm consisting of

thirteen acres of all descriptions of land would be considered a very comfortable holding for a husbandman. A single pair of oxen is not able to cultivate more than five acres of land; and the Collector reports that a peasant holding a small farm of this size would not be so well off as an ordinary retail shopkeeper. As a rule, the cultivating class is said to be in debt. Advances of seed paddy are generally made to the cultivator by the landlord, to whom the crop is hypothecated in the first place for the rent, and secondly, for the repayment of the advance. The advance is repaid at harvest time in grain, with an addition of from thirty to fifty per cent. as interest. Nearly all the cultivators of Midnapur hold their fields with a Right of Occupancy, and the Collector estimates the proportion of ordinary tenants at will to be only about four per cent. of the general body of cultivators. Very few husbandmen, however, hold their land free of liability to enhancement of rent. The number cannot be given, but the Collector states that their proportion to the other classes of cultivators is insignificant. Generally speaking, all the cultivators are acknowledged as possessing rights of occupancy, with the exception of sub-tenants, or *korfadars*. There are a few cases in Midnapur of small proprietors, who own, occupy, and cultivate their hereditary lands, without either a superior landlord above, or a sub-tenant or *krishan* below them. The Collector states that the holders of rent-free lands may be classed under this category, but such holders are few and far between.

THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS of Midnapur District used for purposes of agriculture are buffaloes and oxen. Cows are also sometimes used by Muhammadans for ploughing, but not often. Goats, sheep, pigs, geese, ducks, and fowls are reared for food, or as articles of trade. The value of an average cow is said to be £1, 10s. 0d.; of a pair of oxen, £2, 16s. 0d.; of a pair of buffaloes, £6, 8s. 0d.; of a score of sheep, £6, 0s. 0d.; a score of kids, six months old, £1, 10s. 0d.; and a score of full-grown pigs, £9, 0s. 0d. The Board of Revenue estimates the domestic animals in the District thus :—Buffaloes, cows, bullocks, 69,000; sheep and goats, 85,000; pigs, 10,000. I have no means of testing these figures.

THE AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOW :—*Nangal*, or plough; *mai*, a description of bamboo ladder, drawn over the field to level it and break the clods; *sal*, for raking up grass, weeds, etc., from ploughed land; *dauli*, or *niran*, for weeding and clearing; *pasuni*, another sort of weeder; *kaste*, or sickle for reaping; *da*, a bill-hook for clearing jungle; *kurali*, or axe; and *kodali*, or spade. One of each of the foregoing implements, and a pair of oxen or buffaloes, are required for cultivating what is technically known as a 'plough' of land, and which is equivalent to five acres for a pair of oxen, and seven acres for a pair of buffaloes. The capital necessary to purchase the implements and cattle required to cultivate 'a plough' of land varies from £3, 8s. 0d. to £7, 0s. 0d., according as oxen or buffaloes are used for ploughing.

WAGES AND PRICES have considerably increased of late years. The following rates are officially returned to me; but the wages are lower than the rates to which other estimates and inquiries point :—Coolies and agricultural day-labourers earned from $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $2\frac{5}{8}$ d. per diem in 1871; smiths and carpenters, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day; and bricklayers, from 3d. to $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. a day. Formerly, about 1860, the rates were : for coolies and agricultural labourers, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $1\frac{7}{8}$ d. per diem; smiths and carpenters, 3d.; and bricklayers, $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. a day. In 1871, the ordinary bazar rate for best cleaned rice was 6s. 9d. a hundredweight; common rice, such as that used by the labouring classes, 4s. 4d. a hundred-weight; best quality of unhusked rice, 3s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. a hundredweight; common quality of unhusked rice, 2s. 2d. a hundredweight; shelled barley, 8s. 2d. a hundredweight; unshelled barley, 5s. 4d. a hundredweight; wheat, 9s. 4d. a hundredweight; indigo, about £33 a hundredweight; sugar-cane *gur*, or crude sugar, 10s. 11d. a hundredweight. In 1860, prices were about twenty-five per cent. cheaper. Rates during the famine of 1866 :—Rice, of any quality, £1, 1s. 10d. per hundredweight : unhusked rice, 10s. 11d. a hundredweight ; and wheat, £ 1, 1s 10d. a hundredweight.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Two standards of weight are in use in Midnapur District,—one, the *ser* of 62 *tola* weight, equivalent to 1 lb. 9 ozs. 8 drs. avoirdupois; and the Government standard, or *paka ser*, of 80 *tola* weight. The minor denominations of weight in both are the same. They are

as follow :—4 *kachha* = 1 *chhatak*; 4 *chhatak* = 1 *poa*; 5 *poa* = 1 *ser*. Beyond the *ser*, the multiples are : $2\frac{1}{2}$ *ser* = 1 *arhai*; 2 *arhai*, or 5 *ser* = 1 *pasuri*; 8 *pasuri* = 1 *maund*. The local grain measures are as follow :—4 *kachha* = 1 *chhatak*; 4 *chhatak* = 1 *kona*; 4 *kona* = 1 *pai*; 4 *pai* = 1 *man* or *maund*; 4 *maunds* = 1 *kuri*; 16 *kuri* = 1 *ara*; 20 *ara* = 1 *bisi*. For liquids the following is the standard of measurement :—4 *kachha* = 1 *chhatak*; 4 *chatak* = 1 *kona*; 4 *kona* = 1 *pai*; 20 *pai* = 1 *sali*. Distance is measured as follows :—24 *anguli*, or thumb-breadths = 1 *hath*, or cubit of 18 inches; 4 or 5 *hath* = 1 *katha* (lineal); 20 *katha* = 1 *rasi*; 88 *rasi* = 1 *kos*; 4 *kos* = 1 *yojan*, or about 8 miles English measurement. The local measures of time, besides the usual divisions of day, month, year, etc., which are the same in native as in English calculation, are as follow :—1 *anupal* = $\frac{1}{150}$ of a minute; 1 *pal* = $\frac{2}{5}$ of a minute; 1 *danda* = 24 minutes; 1 *prahar* = 3 hours; 1 *yug* = 12 years.

WASTE LANDS.—A considerable extent of waste land has been brought under cultivation of late years. Mr. H. V. Bayley, in his 'Memorandum on Midnapur,' 1851, mentions that at the time of the revision of the settlement of those estates held under temporary settlements, Government remitted the assessment on cultivable waste lands situated within their estates, with a view to encourage their extended cultivation. It was afterwards found that the concessions did not have the effect of inducing the landholders to grant leases on lighter terms to their cultivators, and it was therefore proposed to assess the lands at first very lightly, and to gradually increase the rent by progressive rates as the land was brought under cultivation. At the present day, nearly all the waste lands are situated in *Pargana Bagri*, the largest Fiscal Division in the District, with an area of 444 square miles; and here the terms of tenure are favourable to the cultivator. Waste land tenures of the description known as *utbandi* or *jumia*, such as those met with in Nadiya and Chittagong, do not exist in Midnapur District. Waste land tenures are here of a peculiar nature. These spare lands are not held by the proprietors as Home Farms (*khas khamar*), nor are they regularly leased to the cultivators annually. The proprietors or holders generally let the land out, on a sort of tenure known as *bhag-jot*, or shares. Under a tenure of this sort, the tenant pays no rent, but

cultivates the land with his own ploughs, and provides all the expenses of cultivation. At harvest time he generally retains half the produce to reimburse him for his trouble, and hands the other half over to the landlord, or superior tenant, as the case may be, in lieu of rent.

LAND TENURES.—The following description of the different varieties of land tenures in Midnapur District, is slightly condensed from a report on the subject drawn up by Babu Kali Prasanna Rai Chaudhri, Deputy Collector, dated 3d. July 1873. These tenures are divided into three classes :— (1) Ordinary rent-paying tenures (2) Rent-free tenures : and (3) Rent-free service tenures. The first class consists of twenty-five different tenures as follow :—

(1) **ZAMINDARIS** ordinarily consist of *parganas*, *tappas*, or other divisions of land, forming large estates, which pay revenue direct to Government, and constitute the property of the superior landholders or *zamindars*. The tenure existed during the Muhammadan rule, although in a different condition from the present. At that time, the *zamindars* are believed to have had no absolute proprietary right to the soil. They were considered rather as contractors, collectors, or farmers of the revenue, and were remunerated for their trouble, responsibility, and service, or received the hereditary dues to which prescription entitled them, in the shape of percentages on the collections, or by grants of land, called *nankar*, held exempt from revenue for their subsistence, or sometimes by both. It was under the British rule in the year 1793 that the question of their right to the lands was set at rest by the terms of the Perpetual Settlement, which declared them to be the actual proprietors enjoying their estates in absolute ownership as long as they paid the Government revenue assessed on them, with the power reserved to Government of enacting such regulations as might be thought necessary for the protection of dependent *talukdars* and the cultivators of the soil. The number of *zamindars* that were brought upon the Collectorate Records, as settled at the time of the Permanent Settlement, was twenty-nine, several of them holding very large estates, comprising a number of entire *parganas*. The Census Report of 1872 returned a total number (male and female) of 1369 *zamindars*.

(2) INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT TALUKS.—Tenures usually smaller than *zamindaris*, though sometimes including several villages, and not unfrequently confounded with *zamindaris*, and hereditary and transferable as long as the revenue is paid, are called *taluks*. They existed during the Muhammadan rule, and were sometimes granted by the Mughul Government at favourable assessments as a mark of favour, or on condition of clearing and cultivating waste land. *Taluks* are of two kinds, as contemplated by the Regulations of the Permanent Settlement, viz. *huzuri* or independent; and *mazkuri* or *shikmi*, or dependent. Independent *taluks* are those which pay their revenue to Government direct, being separated from *zamindaris*, and entitled so to pay their revenue under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1793; and dependent *taluks* are those of which the revenue is paid through the intervention of a *zamindar* or other proprietor. Independent *taluks* are classed with, and looked upon, as petty *zamindaris*. They are not entered in the Collectorate Registers with any distinction from the regular *zamindaris*, or with anything to show that they are of the character described in Section 5, Regulation VIII. of 1793. For practical purposes, however, the estates paying revenue to Government direct may be classified as follow :—

1st. Regular *zamindaris* as settled at the time of the Perpetual Settlement in entire *parganas* or *tappas*.

2d. *Taluks* or estates other than the above, settled at the time of the Permanent or under the Permanent Settlement rules.

3d. Other estates added subsequently under the Resumption Laws.

The number of independent *taluks* in this District, according to the above classification, is 2147; dependent or *mazkuri* or *shikmi taluks* of old times are scarcely to be found in this District. One such *taluk* only can be traced in the records; it is *taluk* Jamirapal, included in the Nayagaon *zamindari*. There are, however, numerous petty *shikmi* tenures or *taluks* not exceeding 100 *bighas*, each assessed under the operation of the Resumption Laws as dependent on the parent estates temporarily settled. The number of these

is not ascertainable; they are to be found chiefly in the Hijili portion of the District. Under the general head of *taluks*, the literal meaning of which is dependence, may be classed the tenures called *nankar*, *patni*, *istimrari*, etc.; but as they are commonly known by these distinct names, they are separately mentioned in this list.

(3) NANKAR TALUKS are tracts of land originally exempted from assessment during the Mughal Administration, being intended for the support of the zamindars and their families. There are two large tenures of this sort in the District—one in *Pargana* Midnapur called *nankar* Ballabhpur, and another in *Pargana* Majnamuta. Both of these have now been brought under assessment, and are settled in perpetuity under Regulation VIII. of 1793, paying their revenue direct to Government. There is also a third estate in Pataspur Fiscal Division, called *nankar* Pataspur. This is not permanently settled, but settled temporarily from time to time with the parent estate.

(4) KAMDURA TENURES are lands granted by *zamindars* previous to the Permanent Settlement, avowedly at lower than the prevailing rates, either as marks of favour, or for jungle clearing. In the settlements made of the parent estates under the Permanent Settlement rules these rates were allowed to stand good, and the tenures were assessed accordingly, and settled dependently on the parent estates. Such tenures are hereditary and transferable.

(5) PANCHAKI TENURES.—In olden times, before the Permanent Settlement, several patches of land were granted to persons by *zamindars* as marks of favour, or for the purpose of cultivation, the rent being assessed at low rates. These tenures were then, as now called *panchaki*, the name being evidently intended to represent the rate of assessment. These tenures are chiefly to be met with in Bagri Fiscal Division, and have been permanently settled dependently on their parent estates at the low rates of assessment originally made. It is supposed by some that the name *panchaki* is from the fact of the lands being granted at one-fifth of the usual rate of rent. The Midnapur Records, however, neither prove nor disprove this inasmuch as they do not show the total produce or the

original assets of the lands. The number of these tenures existing in the District is not ascertainable.

(6) **PESHKASHI** is properly the denomination of a quit-rent; hence an estate held at a quit-rent; and there are some under-tenures in this District, which go by the name *peskashi*, evidently in consequence of the small quit-rents assessed on them. These tenures are precisely similar to the *kamdura* tenures above mentioned (heading No. 4), and were recognised and settled in the same way as *kamdura*. The total number of these tenures is not ascertainable; apparently, however, there are only a few of them existing in the District.

(7) **JALPAI** is the name of a tenure peculiar to Midnapur District. When the privilege of manufacturing salt was taken from the landholders and monopolized by Government, the latter took from the former large tracts of jungle and waste lands for manufacturing purposes, granting them in lieu remissions of rent, and also a payment as rent for the lands taken for manufacture, termed *khalari*. The landholders likewise received compensation for the loss of profits derived from salt manufacture, and also an allowance of salt, termed *khoraki*, or diet salt. The lands which chiefly supplied fuel for boiling the brine, were called *jalpai*, or fuel-lands. The total area of these lands in Midnapur which have become the property of Government under the provisions of Regulation I. of 1824, is about 76,835 acres. There are at present 187 estates of *jalpai* lands bearing distinct numbers on the District rent-roll, and 32 estates of *jalpai* lands have been incorporated and permanently settled with Government resumed rent-free estates.

(8) **ISTIMRARI TALUKS** are farms or leases granted by Government or a *zamindar* in perpetuity at a stipulated rent, or in charity at a quit-rent. These tenures existed before the British Administration; but no old *istimrars* of the kind referred to in the Regulations of 1793 are in existence in this District, as far as can be ascertained from hearsay or from the Collectorate Records. Many *istimrars*, however, seem to have been subsequently and recently granted by *zamindars*, as appears from the Collectorate Registers, which show 91 such tenures; but there are evidently many others which have not

been registered. The number of the latter is not ascertainable. These tenures are all hereditary and transferable, and not resumable by the grantors; but they are liable to be cancelled by purchasers of parent estates at sales for arrears of revenue, if not specially registered under the provisions of Act XI. of 1859.

(9) AIMAS are properly tenures granted rent free, or subject to a small quit-rent, to learned or pious Musalmans, or for religious or charitable uses in relation to Muhammadanism. These tenures existed long before the Company's accession to the *diwani*, and were recognised by the British Government as hereditary and transferable. From Section 9 of Regulation VIII. of 1793 it appears that certain tenures called *malguzari aimas* were granted for the purpose of bringing waste lands into cultivation. No *aimas* granted for religious or charitable purposes, as above mentioned, either before or at the time of the Permanent Settlement, seem to exist in this District. There are indeed a few *aimas* in Pargana Balrampur which seem to have existed at the time of the said settlement; but they were granted for the purpose of jungle cultivation. There are, however, a good many *aimas* since granted by the *zamindars* for the purpose of clearing the jungle and for the improvement of the lands free of rent, or subject to small rents for the first few years, and assessable subsequently at progressive or fixed rent according to the *pargana* rates. The total number of these tenures cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy. The registers under Act XI. of 1859 (Section 39) show only 12 such tenures. They are most prevalent in the jungle portions of the District, in Parganas Bagri, Brahmanbhum, Sildah, Bahadurpur, etc. These tenures are generally heritable and transferable by their terms, and are secure against cancellation, except by purchasers of parent estates at sales for arrears of revenue, if not duly registered under the provisions of Act XI. of 1859. A few of these *aimas* go by the name of *jangal-buri* tenures, although they are the same in character and peculiarities as the ordinary *aima* tenures.

(10) PATNIS are a species of contract *taluks* which originated on the estates of the Raja of Bardwan after 1793. They are granted by the *Zamindars* at rents fixed in perpetuity, to be

held by the lessees, called *patnidars*, and their heirs for ever. The lessees are required to furnish security at the discretion of the *zamindar* to the amount of half the annual rent. The main condition in the lease is, that in the event of an arrear occurring, the tenure may be sold by the *zamindar*; and if the sale proceeds do not cover the arrear, the other property of the defaulting *patnidar* is liable for it. These tenures are transferable and answerable for the personal debts of the *patnidars*, and subject to the process of the courts of judicature in the same manner as other real property, without, however, in any way prejudicing the rights of the *zamindars*. All transfers of *patni taluks* are required to be registered in the *zamindari* court. *Patnidars* may under-let, but such leases are not binding on the *zamindars* in the event of the tenure being sold for arrears. *Patni* tenures are liable to cancellation only by purchasers at sales for arrears of revenue of the parent estates or *zamindaris*, and if not registered under the provisions of Act XI. of 1859. Fifty-five *patnis* have been registered in the Collectorate under the above Act, but apparently there are many more such tenures in this District; the exact number, however, is not ascertainable. The tenures are most prevalent in the Fiscal Divisions of Kharija Mandalghat, Chitwa, Bagri, and Brahmanbhum, and are gradually getting currency in other *parganas*.

(11) *DARPATNIS*, and (12) *SEPATNIS*.—An under-tenure created by a *patnidar*, or a *patni* of the second degree, is called a *darpatni*; and an under-tenure created by a *darpatnidar*, or a *patni* of the third grade, is called a *sepatni*. Both of these tenures possess all the rights and immunities attached to *patnis*, as far as concerns their grantees. *Darpatnis* exist to some extent; but their number, as well as that of *sepatnis*, of which there are said to be very few in this District, is not ascertainable. *Chahrpatnis*, or *patnis* of the fourth degree, do not seem to exist in Midnapur.

(13) *IJARA*, derived from an Arabic word signifying 'price' or 'hire', is the common term for contract tenancies of middlemen between the proprietors of lands and the actual cultivators. In an *ijara* the lands are leased at specific rates of rent, and ordinarily for limited periods. This tenure seems to be the product of old unwritten custom existing from long before the

commencement of the English rule. Ordinarily the *ijaradars* holding short leases sublet their farms, but in cases of long leases the engagements entered into contain provisions authorizing or forbidding subletting. This District teems with *ijaradari* tenures; but only two long leases for 20 years have been registered in the Collectorate under the provisions of Act XI. of 1859. They prevail equally in all parts of the District.

(14) DAR-IJARAS are under-tenures sublet by the *ijaradar*; subleases of this kind are common throughout the District.

(15) IJARA ZARPESHGI signifies a temporary lease or *ijara* granted on receipt of an advance (*peshgi*) from the lessee, the proprietor's right of re-entry at the expiration of the term being contingent on the repayment or liquidation of the advance. Leases of this description are often granted in Midnapur, chiefly by indebted landholders. The lessees in these cases were protected against summary ejectment on the expiry of the term of the leases by the provisions of Act X. of 1859, under which the parties must proceed by regular civil suits.

(16) KATKINA IJARA is the denomination of a temporary lease or sub-lease granted by the proprietor or farmer or under-farmer at a rack rent. The lessees in these cases are ordinarily bound to pay the rents engaged for by them without raising objection on the score of non-collection or insufficient collection from the lands leased. Leases of this kind are to be met with everywhere throughout Midnapur District.

(17) JOT MANDLI is a tenure which seems to be the product of an unwritten custom. It is supposed to have originated from the practice which prevailed in the District in old times of leasing lands to the head-men of villages, called *mandals*, on liberal rates of rents, for the purpose of clearing jungle and cultivating waste lands, on the understanding ordinarily that they should thus reclaim the lands themselves or through cultivators under them. The tenure is similar in character to *aimas*. The name *jot mandli* appears to have arisen from the lease being granted to *mandals*. Leases of this kind are granted by proprietors of estates in perpetuity at fixed rates, or for a term of years only. The former practice was more in vogue in old times than now-a-days. Tenures of the kind in

question are chiefly to be met with in Parganas Chiara Jhargaon, Kalyanpur, etc., in the jungle tracts. Those *jot mandlis* which have been granted in perpetuity at rents fixed for ever, have always been looked upon as transferable tenures. Government, however, repudiates the rights of the proprietors to hold their land at unalterable rates of rent. The total number of these tenures in Midnapur District is not ascertainable.

(18) *NIJ JOT, KHAMAR, OR SIR LANDS.*—These are lands which the *zamindar* or other proprietor retains in his own hands, and cultivates either by hired labour or by tenants at will, paying as rent either half the produce, ordinarily called *bhog jama*, or a determinate share of the produce, called *sanja jama*, or paying rent in money. Such lands are retained by almost all the *zamindars* of this District, and date from early times. *Khamar*, although, generally speaking, another name for *nij jot* lands, ordinarily implies waste lands subject to inundations, etc., cultivated only at favourable seasons, and paying rent in kind, generally on the *bhog jama* system when cultivated. *Khamar* lands seem only to exist in Parganas Chitwa and Kharija Mandalghat in this District.

(19) *JOT ZAMIN* is the common name for the holding of an ordinary cultivator. It is qualified by other prefixes, according to the different terms, conditions, and nature of the holding, as shown below.

(20) *MAURUSI JOTS* are hereditary leases of lands granted to husbandmen for cultivation, and are ordinarily transferable. These tenures exist in almost every Fiscal Division of the District, but their total number does not appear to be very large.

(21) *MUKARRARI JOTS* are leases of land granted to husbandmen for cultivation at fixed rents, but not hereditary (or at least not originally so).

(22) *MAURUSI AND MUKARRARI JOTS* (conjointly) are hereditary leases of land granted to cultivators at rents fixed in perpetuity. Many of these tenures exist in Midnapur, though their exact number is not known.

The three kinds of *jots* above-mentioned enjoy the privileges mentioned in Section 3, 5, and 6 of the Rent Law, according

as they may come under one or other of these sections. Lands on which houses, etc. have been built, or tanks dug, or places of worship, etc. made, are protected against auction-purchasers by Sections 37 and 52 of Act XI. of 1859. Lands in eight such cases seem to have been registered under that Act in Midnapur.

(23) **KHUDKASHT JOTS.**—The holdings of resident cultivators, or in other words, lands tilled by cultivators residing in the village to which their lands belong, are called *khudkasht jots*. Tenures of this name existed before the Permanent Settlement. The old tenures are called *khudkasht kadami*, and the new, *khudkasht jadid*, a Persian word meaning 'new'. A great distinction was made between *khudkasht* and other husbandmen in the old laws; but the only cultivating statutory tenures now recognised are those mentioned in Act X. of 1859, or Act VIII. of 1869, B. C., viz. rights of occupancy at fixed or at fair rents. Such of the tenures of the kind as come under the category of those referred to in the exceptional clauses of Section 37, and in Section 52 of Act XI. of 1859, are protected against purchasers of parent estates at sales for arrears of revenue by the provisions of those sections. Section 66 of Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869 also protects *khudkasht* tenures against purchasers of undertenures under the provisions of Sections 59 and 60 of that Act. The total number of *khudkasht* tenures existing in the District is not ascertainable, although they are prevalent more or less in almost every part of it.

(24) **PAIKASHT JOTS** are lands cultivated by non-resident rayats. These tenures are ordinary holdings under Section 8 of Act X. of 1859, or Act VIII. of 1869, B. C., and are entitled to be held only at such rates as may be agreed between the parties. Midnapur District abounds in such tenures.

(25) **KORFA JOTS** are the small holdings of under-tenants of ordinary cultivators. The name is derived from the Bengali word *kurpur*, meaning 'dependent'; the holder of such a tenure is called *korfa praja*, and he generally has the same rights as the man immediately above him. These tenures are numerous in Midnapur District, but their total number is not ascertainable.

The second class of tenures common in Midnapur are rentfree tenures, of which Babu Kali Prasanna Rai Chaudhri's report enumerates sixteen different varieties, as follow :—

(1) LAKHIRAJ is the common name in Midnapur, as in other Districts, of all the revenue-free or rent-free tenures. Many such tenures were created during the Muhammadan rule by grants to hold lands exempt from payment of revenue, in perpetuity or for life only. They were occasionally made by the Emperors of Delhi, and the Governors of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, for the support of the families of persons who had performed public services, for religious or charitable purposes, and for maintaining troops, etc.; more often by the *zamindars*, and even by officers of the Muhammadan Government appointed to the temporary superintendence of the revenue, under the pretext that the produce of the lands was to be appropriated to religious or charitable purposes, while in fact the alienations were made for the personal advantage of the grantees, or clandestinely of the grantors themselves. No effective measures to check these mal-practices seem to have been adopted until 1793. By Regulation XIX. of that year, only such of the *hukumi* grants (*i.e.* grants made by *zamindars*, etc., as above stated) were declared to be valid as were made before the 12th August 1765, the date of the Company's accession to the *diwani*, provided that the grantees obtained possession previous to the above date, and the lands were not subsequently rendered subject to the payment of revenue by competent authority. All grants made after the above date, but previous to 1790, were deemed valid only if confirmed by Government or any officer empowered to confirm them; but all lands granted, of the extent not exceeding 10 *bighas* ($3\frac{1}{3}$ acres), for religious purposes, which were *bona fide* appropriated to those purposes, were exempted from assessment; and by Regulation XXXVII. of 1793, all royal grants for holding lands exempt from the payment of revenue, made previous to the 12th August 1765, were declared valid if the grantees obtained possession of the lands so granted previous to that date, and the grants had not been subsequently resumed by competent authority. Other grants made subsequent to the 12th August 1765, were deemed valid only if confirmed by Government, or by any officer empowered to confirm them.

(2) **BAHALI LAKHIRAJ.**—All *lakhiraj* lands which were exempted from payment of revenue under the provisions of the Regulations above-mentioned, or on the principles laid down in them, are called *bahali lakhiraj* (i.e. confirmed *lakhiraj*) in Midnapur. The number of such tenures existing in the District in 1871 is returned to me at 4144; and their revenue, if assessed at half rates, is estimated at £10,626. The *lakhiraj* tenures created for religious and charitable purposes are called *debottar*, *brahmottar*, *wakf*, etc., as detailed below.

(3) **DEBOTTAR LANDS** are estates granted rent-free, the proceeds being appropriated to the worship and support of Hindu idols and temples. The ordinary method of providing for the support of idols, priests, and worship is by endowments,—by the dedication of certain property to an idol or to a temple; and the property so dedicated is thenceforth called *debottar* property. As soon as the lands have been so dedicated, the rights of the donor lapse for ever; he cannot alienate them, and his heirs cannot inherit them. *Debottar* lands, ordinarily speaking, are inalienable and indivisible; but temporary leases of them extending to the life of the *sebayet* or *mahant* (the manager and superintendent of the establishment for the worship) may be granted by them for the benefit of the idol, or for the repairs, etc. of the temples; and the heirs of the grantor for whose benefit the worship is conducted can, by consent, form separate religious establishments, and separately perform the services, each one taking a separate share of the rents. The number of *debottar* tenures existing in the District, as far as can be ascertained, is 1132. They seem to be most prevalent in the southern and eastern parts of the District. Nearly the whole of the *debottar* lands in this District seem to be appropriated to the support of family idols, the management of the property and of the establishment for worship being made by the donors or their families. There is only one Hindu endowment in the District, viz. the *Dharmasala*, or resting-house, in Mauza Manikar, within Khandar Fiscal Division. There are also 21 estates in the District, the recorded proprietors of which in the register are idols or Hindu gods.

(4) **BRAHMOTTAR LANDS** are estates granted rent-free to Brahmans for their support, and that of their descendants,

either as a reward for their sanctity or learning, or to enable them to devote themselves to religious duties or education. The object which induced the grantees to make gifts of these lands under this head in old times did not continue in force in later periods, when fraudulent grants were often made to Brahmans from other considerations and with other motives. Lands not exceeding 10 *bighas* granted to Brahmans were declared exempt from payment of revenue by Regulations XIX. of 1793 and XIV. of 1825, above alluded to. *Brahmottar* lands are more numerous in the Hijili portion of the District than elsewhere, and the records show 1203 such tenures. They are transferable, and liable for the grantee's debts.

(5) VAISHNAVOTTAR are lands granted rent-free for the support of Vaishnav devotees. The District records show 272 such tenures in Midnapur. They are transferable, and liable to be sold for the grantee's debts.

(6) MAHATTRAN LANDS are rent-free estates granted to persons of respectability belonging to the *sudra* class, such as *kayasths*, etc., or for religious purposes. The number of such tenures in Midnapur District is returned at 169, principally in Pataspur Fiscal Division. They are transferable, and liable for the grantee's debts.

(7) KHUSHBASH LANDS are those granted rent-free to persons for dwelling-houses, etc. In Midnapur District, 189 claims to hold land of this denomination rent-free have been admitted. These tenures are mostly met with in Majnamuta Fiscal Division, and, like those above-mentioned, are transferable, and liable for the debts of the holders.

(8) BHATOTTAR are lands granted rent-free to *bhats* or bards. Ten cases of such lands have been exempted from assessment in Midnapur, situated within Kedar and Pataspur Fiscal Divisions.

(9) GANAKOTTAR are lands granted to *ganaks*, or fortune-tellers, astrologers, and genealogists. Only two cases of such lands have been exempted from assessment in Midnapur, situated in Kedar and Pataspur Fiscal Divisions.

(10) SANYASOTTAR are rent-free lands granted for the support of *sanyasis*, or religious ascetics. Thirteen cases of such lands being exempted from assessment are entered in the

District Records, all of which are within Pataspur Fiscal Division.

(11) **KHANABARI LANDS** are those on which the dwellings and outhouses of *zamindars* are situated, or homestead sites and vegetable gardens of cultivators, and on which no revenue has been assessed. In 23 cases in Midnapur District claims to hold lands of this description rent-free were admitted. They are transferable, and liable for the debts of the grantees.

(12) **WAKF LANDS** are rent-free estates appropriated for Muhammadan religious or charitable purposes. Like the *debottar* lands of the Hindus, *wakf* lands are not liable for the debts of the testator, whose proprietary rights cease after the completion of the endowments, and are not alienable, though transferable temporarily for the preservation or benefit of the endowment or the mosque. It has been held that if the property is wholly *wakf*,—i.e. if all the profits be devoted exclusively to religious and charitable purposes,—the *mutawalli*, or superintendent of the endowment, having only a life interest, is incompetent to grant leases for a longer period than the term of his own life; but if the office be hereditary, and the *mutawalli* has a beneficial interest in the property, it has been held that the property must be considered heritable, burdened with a certain trust. The number of *wakf* properties existing in Midnapur District is not ascertainable, but they are said to be very few. The District records only show six cases of lands assigned for the support of mosques. The word *wakf* is an Arabic term having several meanings, one of which is a legacy or endowment for pious uses, or a dedication or foundation of a public charity.

(13) **MADAD-MASH** are lands granted rent-free for the support of learned or pious Muhammadans. The number of these tenures in Midnapur is returned at 23. They are transferable, and liable for the debts of the grantee.

(14) **PIROTTAR** are lands granted rent-free for the support of the tombs of *pirs*—i.e. saints and other holy men of the Muhammadan faith. The District records show 63 of such tenures, mostly situated in the fiscal Divisions of Doro, Pataspur, and Keoramal.

(15) NAZRAT LANDS are presents made in lands for religious purposes. Very few tenures of this description exist in Midnapur.

(16) KHANKAR signifies lands granted for the temporary residence of Muhammadan religious mendicants. The District records show only one case in which lands of this description were exempted from payment of revenue. The lands being granted for a public purpose, are probably not transferable or liable for the private debts of the grantee.

The third class of tenures in Midnapur consists of estates or lands granted rent-free in return for military or other service performed by the grantee. Babu Kali Prasanna Rai Chaudhri's report enumerates seven different descriptions of service tenures as under :—

(1) **PAIKAN LANDS** are the name of a tenure peculiar to Midnapur. They consist of lands given to *paiks*, or village watchmen, in the shape of military tenures, some at low quit-rents, called *peshkash jama*, and some free of all rent except that represented by the service rendered by them to the *zamindars*. The lands thus granted generally consist of blocks from two to thirteen acres each, although in some cases in Midnapur Fiscal Division *paiks* are said to be in possession of from 66 to 133 acres each, of service land of this description. In olden times the landholders retained large bands of *paiks* for purposes of aggression or defence; and these men were also employed in carrying on the system of internal police administration which the *zamindars* maintained within their several estates, the tenures above alluded to being given to them for their support. In February 1796, the area of *paikan* lands in Midnapur was returned at 33,350 acres. In 1866, the total area, as ascertained by a special inquiry conducted by Mr. D. J. McNeile, C.S., was 28,115 acres; but changes have since taken place, in consequence of the recent transfers from Hugli District. These lands are chiefly situated in the wilder tracts of the northern and western parts of the District rather than in the southern or eastern parts, and are most frequently met with in the Fiscal Divisions of Midnapur, Manohargarh, Bhanjbhum, Bagri, and Brahmanbhum. Some of the *paikan* lands in the District were resumed by Government, but were subsequently abandoned in favour of the *zamindars*. *Paikan*

lands were held on condition of service, and do not carry with them the right of hereditary succession. Mr. D. J. McNeile, in his special Report on the village police of Midnapur, states that *paikan* lands situated in *parganas* settled after the enactment of Regulation I. of 1793 are protected from resumption by Government; and that such lands in *parganas* settled before 1793, or such lands situated in a *zamindari* but paying no quit-rents, or such lands of which the quit-rents have not been included in the assets of settlement, are resumable under Clause 4, Section 8, Regulation I. of 1793. The relative positions of the Government, the *zamindar*, and the *paiks*, are as follow :—The *zamindar* is responsible to Government for the efficient service of *paiks*. He is to appoint the *paiks*, giving preference to heirs of old incumbents if they are qualified for the duty, and to dismiss them for incompetence or misconduct, and make over their lands to others. The *paiks* on their part are responsible to *zamindars*, but the *zamindar* is responsible to Government for keeping them up in an efficient state.

(2) PATWARI JAGIRS are lands assigned to *patwaris*, or village accountants, in lieu of wages; but such tenures are only met with in Pataspur Fiscal Division. There are about 48 *patwaris* in that *pargana*, and the total area of the land held by them on this tenure is about 232 acres. The *patwaris* have no proprietary right in the land, which is only held on condition of service in lieu of salary.

(3) ARZI PIYADA JAGIRS.—This is a description of service tenure peculiar to Midnapur. The messengers and bailiffs attached to the Collector's office hold revenue-free lands in lieu of salary, and these lands are called by the name '*arzi piyada's jagir*.' The tenure was created by a Muhammadan ruler of the Province, who, in the year 1095 Amli, granted a *sanad* to one Shaikh Banja, giving him the lands revenue-free in perpetuity, with a view to bring the soil under cultivation; and the grantee in return performed certain ceremonial services, attended with 11 *chobdars* on the Governor at Midnapur, and performed other duties connected with his Court. A deed for the land was subsequently obtained from Mr. Young, the Superintendent of *Bazi Zamin Daftar*, in 1786, and the grantee continued to attend the Collector of the District with 11 *chobdars* as before. Attempts were made to

resume these lands; but the Board, in their letters dated 22d May 1798 and 6th April 1842, prohibited their resumption on the part of Government, and the lands in question have all along been held by the peons free of revenue in lieu of salary, as above stated. The original deed was for 166 acres, but the quantity of land mentioned in that granted by Mr. Young seems to be 125 acres, and the actual quantity in the possession of the *piyadas*, as per latest measurement, is 138 acres, situated in Parganas Kharagpur and Midnapur.

(4) DAFTRI JAGIR.—This is a plot of land, consisting of seven acres, held as service by the under record-keeper (*daftri*) in the Midnapur Collector's Office. The tenure seems to have been first created during the Muhammadan rule, when the *daftri* employed in the Revenue Court (*tahsildari kachari*) at Khandar had the lands in question assigned to him in lieu of salary, and the grantee was continued in possession of the lands by the English; but subsequently the tenure was transferred to the *daftri* of the Collector's Office. The original deed for the lands is not to be found, and no record exists to show why the *daftri* was here remunerated in land in lieu of money.

(5) BEHARA JAGIR : (6) NAPIT JAGIR : and (7) KUMAR JAGIR, are the other service tenures. Lands granted rent-free by *zamindars*, etc., to palki-bearers are called *behara jagirs*; those granted to barbers are called *napit jagirs*; and those granted to *kumars* (earthen-pot makers) are called *kumar jagirs*. These tenures are held on condition of service by the former two, and of supplying pots, generally to *thakurbaris* (temples), by the latter. Such tenures, and others of the kind, exist more or less in almost all large *zamindaris*. The number and area of such tenures are not ascertainable.

A considerable portion of the land in Midnapur District has passed from the hands of the superior landlord, or *sadr zamindar*, into those of intermediate holders.

SETTLEMENT AND RATES OF RENT.—Midnapur is an intermediate District between the Temporarily Settled Province of Orissa and the Permanently Settled Districts of Bengal Proper, and illustrates both systems. The permanently settled portion consists principally of the closely cultivated lands in the interior of the District, while the temporarily settled

portion is chiefly confined to the salt tracks in the Hijili Division of the District lying along the sea-coast and the western bank of the estuary of the Hugli.

The following particulars regarding the Settlement of the Hijili portion and temporarily settled estates in Midnapur, are condensed from Mr. Bayley's ms. Report. The Settlements were made between 1833 and 1852, under Regulations VII. of 1822 and IX. of 1825, and consisted of the three following kinds : (1) Detailed Settlements of rent-paying lands, comprising 21 *parganas*; (2) Detailed Settlements of Government-purchased estates; (3) of resumed estates. The following is a statement of the principles which guided the assessments made at the time of the Settlement, quoted from Mr. Bayley's Report :—Returns of produce were not taken *per se* as the basis of rates, for that would not alone afford a correct guide to a proper equalization of the public burden; because no real selling prices could be obtained for each individual case. The forced sale of the needy husbandman, and the contrary of a well-to-do one, or of the flourishing *sud khania* (literally, interest-devouring) *mahajan* or grain merchant, do not admit of any fixed price of produce on any given date for any particular village. Further, this fact, although sufficient to cause the rejection of any such basis, excludes at the same time all considerations of facility of carriage, proximity of markets, or local demand and supply, all of which more or less arbitrarily affect calculations made on the basis of returns of produce only. The plan of averages was also rejected, as not "equalizing" even in letter, and certainly not in spirit and in truth, the "public burthen." But the rates were fixed in each case on the basis of "former *fair* payments and present *fair* capabilities," to arrive at which, the powers of the soil, and situation of the land, in each case, and its past *fairly paid* assessment, were carefully investigated. Mr. Commissioner Mills remarked on this important point : "The principle is the best and safest in all cases, and particularly in this case, where the chance of over-assessment was so great." The rates assessed on resumed rent-free estates were generally maintained at one-fourth less than on revenue-paying estates. This was the general usage, arising, probably from the *lahirajdar* being weak in comparison with the revenue-paying *zamindar*, and frequently an absentee; and it being

therefore an object with him to give his tenants better terms than his more powerful neighbour may find it necessary to do. The terms to the husbandman being easier, have tended to make *lakhiraj* lands always better cultivated than others; and as a general rule, this has been the actual result in Midnapur District.'

All the holders of resumed rent-free tenures at the time of the Settlement were allowed a reduction of fifty per cent. for their proprietary right. With regard to the parties allowed to engage for the settlement of resumed rent-free estates, Mr. Bayley, in his ms. Report, states that the principle laid down by Mr. Commissioner Mills, quoted p. 56 of that gentleman's 'Confirmation Proceedings,' dated 28th October 1844, was the rule followed :—'It appears that there are twenty-five sharers on this estate (Chak Arjuni) who possess specific portions of land which have been separately assessed; but they have not claimed a separate allotment of the *jama* (assessment). In the event of their doing so, there is no objection to the Collector taking separate engagements from each, and making the necessary entries in the records. In the meanwhile, the estate must be treated as a joint one (*ijmali*); and as the sharers are so numerous, the body of proprietors might be invited to bring forward their own nominees to engage for the Government revenue, an arrangement as advantageous to themselves as to Government. In the event of such proprietor's recusancy, the estate may be farmed to a stranger at the fixed assessment (*mufassal jama*), less twenty per cent. for collection charges, for a period of ten years. Of the remaining thirty per cent., ten per cent. will be set aside as the proprietor's *malikana*, or proprietary allowance, and twenty per cent. carried to the credit of Government.'

The following particulars with regard to the settlement of the three Government-purchased estates of Kedar, Kharagpur, and Balarampur, are extracted from Mr. Mills' Confirmation Proceedings.

(1) 'KEDAR.—The condition of the cultivators is described as strikingly indigent, attributed to over-exaction on the part of the former landholders and farmers, added to several bad seasons since the *pargana* came into our hands. Great care appears to have been taken in revising and refixing the rates. This was done after due inquiry into the capabilities of the

soil ; and the cultivators willingly signed their agreements. The average assessments were as follow : (a) *Kala*, or high land, used as homestead sites, and for the production of sugar-cane, peas, hemp, betel plant, mulberry, cotton, vegetable and oil-seeds ; average assessment, 7s. 1d an acre. (b) *Jal*, or low lands, on which rice is cultivated ; average assessment, 5s. 8½d. per acre. (c) Confirmed *kamdura*, or lands paying a quit-rent, 9s. 0¼d. an acre. The total average is 5s. 7¼d. an acre. These rates are light, and such as the lands can well pay, but they have been adjusted with care and discrimination. The former assessment pressed heavily upon the cultivators, and the relief given is not greater than the circumstances of the case justified. With regard to the rent-free tenures in the *pargana*, the Collector will institute Resumption Suits under Section 30 of Regulation II. of 1819, to try the right of Government to assess all lands not covered by deeds granting them the land rent-free (*bazi zamin sanads*). The farmers' allowance will be twenty-five per cent. on the fully assessed (*mal*) lands, and fifteen per cent. on the resumed rent-free (*lakhiraj*) lands, assessed at a half rental. The same percentage was given to the Kharagpur farmers ; and the estates of this description situated in a highly cultivated country, and settled in detail, with the sum which each man is to pay defined and fixed, I am of opinion that it is a fair, but not an over-liberal allowance. The farmers' petition for thirty-five per cent. proprietary allowance, and for remissions on account of calamities of season, is quite unreasonable.

(2) 'KHARAGPUR.—This *pargana* is described as very high, and wanting in the means of natural irrigation. The soil is of three classes : viz. *kala*, or high land ; *jai*, or moist land ; and *charapal*, or sandy land. The *kala* produces spring rice, grain, vegetables, hemp, and flax ; with a little cotton, mulberry, sugar-cane, mustard, and linseed. The *jai* lands grow the various kinds of rice which require much moisture ; and the *charapal* produces melons, native vegetables, mangoes, and potatoes. Since the estate has become the property of Government, the collections have been made through *sarbarahkars* or managers, who have contracted for a certain amount of revenue, less a reduction of from fifteen to twenty per cent. for the expenses and profits. The rates taken by the

Settlement Officer were assumed after a comparison of the rates of the neighbourhood, the present capabilities of the soil, and the rents heretofore actually paid. The average rates assessed were as follow : *Kala* land, 4s. 10³/₄d. an acre ; *jal* land, 4s. 10¹/₄ d. an acre ; *charapal* land, 4s. 3d. an acre ; resumed *jagir* (military service) lands, 4s. 2d. an acre. The average for the whole is 4s. 10d. an acre. In this *pargana* there were 156 claims to hold tenures denominated *nij jot*, *aima*, and *kamdura*, at fixed rates of rent, comprising an area of 1779 acres. Of this 492 acres, paying a fixed rent of £93, 6s. 2¹/₂d., have been released ; and 1221 acres, paying a former assessment of £62, 2s. 10d., have been subjected to a full rental settlement, and assessed at £475, 10s. 3¹/₂d.

With regard to the parties to be allowed to engage for the lands, Mr. Bayley would admit the ex-*zamindars* to enter into engagements for the estates, to the exclusion of the old and new farmers. I negatived this proposition as an act of gross injustice to the farmers. The *zamindars* cannot claim the privilege as a right, and I consider them incompetent to manage estates of such extent as this and Kedar. The Deputy Collector proposes to assign to the Rani on her resumed *nij jot*, *aima*, and *kamdura* tenures, and to the *sadr aimadar* on his resumed *aima* tenure, an allowance of thirty-five per cent. on the assessment, on the ground (1) that they have a kind of special proprietary right therein ; (2) because they have been assessed at a rate quadruple their former quit-rent ; and (3) because I sanctioned a somewhat similar precedent in Balrampur. Mr. Bayley would yield the point in pity to the fallen fortunes of a still respectable landholder. The *aimadars* reclaimed the land, and have an hereditary right of occupancy ; and although no case is made out for granting proprietary allowance (*malikana*), yet I do not object to giving thirty-five per cent. in the cases in question, as the lands have been brought into cultivation through the *aimadars'* agency, and the assets of the lands have been so considerably increased thereby. The Deputy Collector does not consider twenty per cent. a sufficient allowance to the farmers, and proposes twenty-five per cent. He argues that they are *sadr* farmers, that they are directly responsible to Government for the revenue, and that the difficulty in making collections for small and scattered areas is great. The Superintendent of the

Settlement approves of this liberal rate of percentage, as the leases are to be for twenty years' duration, and as a motive to induce them to deal justly and liberally with their tenants. For these reasons, and with regard to the great liability of the land to drought, I have adopted the suggestion. No clause can be introduced into the leases stipulating for remissions on account of bad seasons. Indeed, it is to be understood that the farmers will be expected, except in seasons of extensive and general calamity, absolutely demanding the interposition of the State, to bear the loss which may be sustained. The farmers have combined to demand an allowance of thirty-five per cent. to cover expenses and risks. The demand is altogether unreasonable.

(3) **BALRAMPUR.**—This estate is described as mostly forest. It was originally used as a *shikarga*, or hunting ground, and it is stated that only when the proprietor became embarrassed was the clearing off of the jungle commenced; much jungle yet (1844) remains to be reclaimed. The rates of assessment are low, but I think they are fair and suited to the circumstances of this half-reclaimed estate, the average for *kala* land being 9d., and for *jal* land 2s. an acre; the general all-round average being 1s. 1½d. an acre. With the exception of 39 acres assessed at the rate of 6d. an acre, the lands of this *pargana* are all *aima* estates. Though I disapprove of the principle of prospectively assessing cultivable waste, particularly in an estate of this description, yet as it is stated that the *aimadars* themselves petitioned for the arrangement, and the rates are extremely light, I will not interfere. The rent imposed on the portion situated in the farmed estates is of trifling amount, and it is not worth while to alter the papers for the purpose of remitting it. I fully agree with Mr. Bayley as to the impropriety of assessing waste land for the firewood and charcoal it yields. Let the peasants be encouraged to cultivate it; and on the expiration of the present settlement, Government will participate in the produce of the waste that may be made productive. Under this arrangement a considerable accession of revenue may fairly be expected from the lands in question.

With regard to the ex-proprietors, I wish to show every consideration to the *Ranis*, consistent with a due regard to the interests of the State. They have been allowed to hold their *nij jos* and *aima* lands, the former hitherto at almost

pepper-corn rents; they have been offered pensionary support; they have been, and are now, permitted to hold their houses and homestead grounds, which are of considerable extent, free of charge; and I will now give them the option of engaging for Balrampur, on the following favourable terms :—They shall receive fifteen per cent. on the payments of the farmers, and thirteen per cent. on those of the *aimadars*, for the trouble and responsibility of collecting the rents; and thirty-five per cent. on the measurement (*hasto bud*) assessment, they being required to furnish sufficient security for the due performance of their engagements. The allowance to be made to the farmers is fixed at twenty, and to the *aimadars* at twenty-two per cent.; the latter being increased beyond that of the former in order to cover the expenses of agricultural embankments, which are essential to the reclamation of jungle lands. The Superintendent of the Settlement will see that sufficient security (*mal zamin*) is taken from the farmers for the complete protection of the Ranis against loss from default.'

The temporary Settlements were made for a period of thirty years, and most of them fell in during 1871-72, and a revised Settlement is now (1873) in progress. The following statement, showing the results of the temporary Settlements concluded between 1833 and January 1852, is reproduced from Mr. Bayley's MS. 'Memorandum on Midnapur.' Regular revenue-paying estates, settlement area, 172,936 acres; former assessment (*sadr jama*), £26,473, 11s. od.; present (1852) settlement assessment, £21,472, 8s. 11d. Resumed rent-free estates, settled at half rates, settlement area, 40,959 acres; former assessment, *nil*; assessment in 1852, £5144, 5s. 6d. Government-purchased estates, settlement area, 46,474 acres; former assessment, £4999, 17s. 7d.; assessment in 1852, £6462, 9s. 7d.

SURVEY OF THE DISTRICT.—Midnapur District was surveyed in the years 1838—44. As a revenue survey it has been condemned, but geographically it has a certain value. The following paragraphs are condensed from Mr. Bayley's Report :—The Survey may be considered under two heads, viz. the Survey for the temporarily settled estates, and the Survey of the permanently settled *parganas* as part of the General Revenue Survey. On the former point, Mr. Commissioner

Mills writes—‘The Survey and rough (*khasra*) measurements were under the control of the Surveyor. The *khasra* survey was generally found so inaccurate, that it became necessary to do much of the work over again, which caused much interruption to the Settlement operations, and greatly delayed their final completion.’ The inaccuracies of the Surveyor’s rough measurements may be conjectured from the following facts. The native surveyors (*amins*) were not paid for measuring waste lands, and therefore entered as many of them as possible as cultivated and cultivable; they also purposely made wrong entries when not bribed. Their returns were unchecked; and if they could not (as was to be expected from their many fictitious entries) make their totals agree within six per cent. of that of the professional Survey, they made a false total. Hence, the Settlement Officers had not only to revise the measurements, but to endeavour to reconcile papers of the most contradictory character.

When the Settlement Survey and the measurements of Hijili were finished, it was resolved to extend the operations to the remainder of the District, by making a village and *pargana* survey of every estate borne on the rent-roll; preceded by a demarcation of boundaries and an adjustment of boundary disputes. Villages in which the lands of different estates were interlaced were measured by *amins*, who were for some time controlled by the Surveyors, but the measurement was greatly mismanaged. The *zamindars* refused to sign the measurement statements (*chittas*), and the Surveyor was unable to reconcile the disagreements between the rough measurements and the professional Survey, as well as between the former and the Collector’s Registers. It was therefore determined to make over the duty of testing these measurements to the Deputy Collectors, as well as to assign to them the conduct of the future measurement. The *khasra* or rough measurements then proceeded satisfactorily, and the *zamindars* signed the papers in proof of their correctness. But on the Collector’s proceeding to test the areas of his *khasra* measurements, in communication with the Surveyor, and by comparison with the professional records, it was found impossible to reconcile the conflicting results of many villages, as well as to discover the parent or original village in that of

others. It was therefore resolved to depute a Surveyor to revise the Survey and measurements of those villages in which the discrepancies existed, and also to find out the parent estates of the villages which the Surveyor could not identify, and which were not traceable in the Collector's Records.

The Deputy Surveyor-General attributed the discrepancies to the following causes :—Firstly, To laxity and neglect on the part of the Surveyor; Secondly, To the erroneous method of native mensuration; Thirdly, To the inaccurate registry of local measurement rods in the Collector's Office; Fourthly, To a fallacious mode of calculation used for converting the local into the European land measure; and, finally, To a want of common care and caution in carrying out the professional and *khasra* measurements.

The task of revision was delegated to Mr. Swiney, who was occupied for two years in correcting the boundaries of the old maps, errors of calculations, etc., in the Survey of 1020 villages. But where such discrepancies existed, the correction and alteration of the boundaries of the old maps deranged the boundaries of the adjoining villages to the number of about three thousand. It was accordingly proposed that these should be resurveyed, and the then Collector of the District, Mr. Torrens, suggested that the duty should be entrusted to a superior officer, as the revision involved the security of individual rights. Mr. Commissioner Ricketts recorded his opinion in a Minute, that it mattered little to anybody where the boundaries were placed. Ten villages might be thrown into one, or one village might be divided into ten, without injuring any one, or in any way affecting the value of the maps for revenue, judicial, or geographical purposes. With regard to the Collector's statement that the revision was a work involving the security of the rights of individuals, Mr. Ricketts said, that although it was possible in some parts of Midnapur that the village boundary ruled the right of property, still in the Quinquennial Register, each separate estate bearing a certain proportion of the revenue assessed thereon, was duly entered as composed of certain villages or portions of villages specified in such register. After much discussion, the Board of Revenue came to the conclusion that it would be better to have a resurvey of the whole District, and in January 1851,

recommended it to the Government. No action, however, was taken upon the Board's letter, and the existing Survey is that which was made in 1838-44.

RATES OF RENT.—The rates of rent current in Midnapur vary in different parts of the District, according to position, quality of soil, etc. The following statement exhibits the ordinary rates, as returned for 1872, in different Fiscal Divisions :—(1) Pargana Midnapur, in the Headquarters Subdivision : *aus* rice land, rate of rent from 2s. 4½ d. to 9s. 6d. an acre; *aman* rice land, from 3s. to 12s. an acre; pulse-growing land, from 2s. 4½ d. to 9s. 7½ d. an acre; oil-seed land, from 4s. 9d. to 7s. 3d. an acre; sugar-cane land, from 9s. 7½ d. to 14s. 4½ d. an acre; mulberry land, 19s. 3d. to £1, 4s. an acre; vegetable land, from 4s. 9d. to 9s. 7½ d. an acre. (2) Pargana Shahpur, in the Headquarters Subdivision : *aus* rice land, from 9s. 7½ d. to 11s. 7½ d. an acre; *aman* rice, from 7s. 9d. to 11s. 7½ d. an acre; pulses, from 7s. 9d. to 11s. 7½ d. an acre; sugar-cane, from 11s. 7½ d. to 15s. 6d. an acre. (3) Pargana Sildah, in the Headquarters Subdivision : *aus* rice, from 10½ d. to 2s. 4½ d. an acre; *aman* rice, from 1s. 9d. to 4s. 9d. an acre; pulses, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. an acre; oil-seeds, 1s. 9d. an acre; sugar-cane, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. an acre. (4) Pargana Kharagpur, in the Headquarters Subdivision : *aus* rice, 2s. 1½ d. to 3s. 6d. an acre; *aman* rice, 5s. 4½ d. to 9s. an acre. (5) Pargana Doro, in Tamluk Subdivision : *aman* rice land, 5s. 4½ d. to 9s. an acre. Vegetables also grow on low rice lands and pay the same rate of rent. (6) Pargana Majnamuta, in Contai (Kanthi) Subdivision : *aman* rice land, from 4s. 1½ d. to 8s. 1½ d. an acre; pulse land, from 3s. 7½ d. to 12s. an acre. (7) Pargana Bagri, in Garhbeta Subdivision :—*aus* rice, 3s. 7½ d. to 6s. an acre; *aman* rice, 6s. to 14s. 4½ d. an acre; pulses, 1s. 3d. to 3s. 7½ d. an acre; sugar-cane, 19s. 3d. to £1, 18s. 4d. per acre.

I have not been able to obtain any information as to rates of rent prevailing in olden times. The working of Act X. of 1859 (the Land Law of Bengal), however, has not resulted in anything like a general enhancement of rents in Midnapur. The enhancement provisions of that law were generally resorted to only in those villages in which rents were lower than the rates prevailing for the same class of land held under similar circumstances in neighbouring villages. The cases in

which the Act was most frequently made use of occurred in estates which formerly belonged to Government, *khas mahals*. This was owing to the fact, that while Government had the management of them, the rates of rent were invariably lower than those prevailing in the adjacent estates. Thus the rate in the village of Mukrampur, in Kharagpur Fiscal Division, was 9s. 9d. per acre when it was the property of Government. In 1861, the estate was sold to a private individual by the Government, and the purchaser immediately sued the cultivators for enhancement of rent, and succeeded in obtaining a decree at the rate of 15s. an acre.

ABWABS, OR CUSTOMARY CESSES.—During native rule, and for a long time after the British accession to the administration, the landholders were accustomed to exact from their tenants, in addition to the rent of their lands, a variety of other cesses and fees called *abwabs*. Some of these are so closely connected with the land that they have come to be considered as a part of the rent and are paid as such by the cultivators; while others are cesses levied by the landholders from specific classes or castes and on occasions of domestic ceremonies. At the time of the Settlement a minute inquiry was made into these *abwabs*, or customary cesses; and those which had from ancient times formed a part of the land rent were retained and included as part of the rent, while the others were nominally abolished, and the landholders prohibited to levy them. In some *parganas* the cultivators complained that their rents were unduly swelled by the imposition of these *abwabs*. In Gaomesh Fiscal Division, the Settlement Officer found that the following cesses were levied by the landholders on the cultivators :—(1) *Sikka batta*, or exchange on *sikka* rupees; (2) *Madraji batta*, exchange on Arcot rupees; (3) *Bai sirupa*, a fee levied on the investiture of the *zamindar*; (4) *Khand chhar*, fee upon releasing an attachment upon the crops; (5) *Bheribandi*, fee for maintaining embankments; (6) *Mahamari*, a stated monthly fee or present; (7) *Panchpai*, a tax of one in every five pice; (8) *Magan*, a direct tax, varying from one and a half farthings to threepence per family; (9) *Kifayat Kamajan*, or profit on short weights; (10) *Khana tika*, a house-tax of one *ana*, or three-halfpence; (11) *Gandi*, a fee for the maintenance of the village idol. Another cess,

called *jarib mukafi*—literally, exemption from measurement—prevailed over all Hijili prior to the time of the Settlement. This was a tax levied by the landholders, and assented to by the tenants, in consideration of having their lands exempted from measurement, by which means they were enabled to hold and cultivate a larger extent of land than that covered by their leases. In 1852 this tax was abolished in all the Hijili *parganas* except Gaomesh, the cultivators of which held out, and claimed the right of holding their lands free of liability to remeasurement, upon the payment of the customary *jarib mukafi* fee. Ultimately their remonstrances were admitted, and the tax retained. Mr. Bayley, in his Settlement Report on Pargana Gaomesh, states that the remainder of the cesses above mentioned have been looked upon as part of the rent for several generations, and probably for centuries. An old *zamindari* official, who had been in the employ of the landlord of Gaomesh as an accountant from the latter part of the last century, and whose ancestors had filled the same post, stated that these dues had been always demanded within his recollection, and that he had always heard they were so from his father. Mr. Bayley also mentions that an original lease was filed in the Collector's Office, being dated 1769, or only four years after the British accession. In this document the cesses above mentioned are specified in full detail along with the rent.

All the other cesses levied by the landholder from his tenants, but which did not properly form part of the rent, were prohibited, although the landlords claimed to be allowed to assess them by the right of 'ancestral custom.' Mr. Bayley, in his ms. Report of January 1852, states that only a month previously to that date, Raja Anand Lal Rai, the *zamindar* of Majnamuta, urged upon him the hardship, now that his property was under Government management, of his not ordering the *paramanik*, or tax upon the head-men of certain castes, to be paid to him. In reply to Mr. Bayley's remark that such levies were distinctly prohibited by Government Regulations, he rejoined that ancestral custom should supersede the Regulations. In spite of the Government prohibition, these irregular and illegal cesses continued to be levied by the landholders, and in many cases are so to this day. The right of the *zamindars* to certain fees on occasions of social

ceremonies, such as marriages, births, and deaths, is almost universally recognised by their tenants, and is paid by them in obedience to immemorial custom. The greater part of such cesses, however, have died out, excepting those based upon religious and social ceremonies; and any attempt to exact them in their entirety would now be opposed by the people.

To show the extent to which these cesses were levied in former days, I condense the following list from Mr. Bayley's Report. It shows the different cesses collected in the *zamindari* of Majnamuta in 1815, the year before the estate was placed under the Court of Wards. They were divided into two classes, called *bazi dafa*, or miscellaneous cesses, and *rusumat*, or customary fees. The first named class consisted of the following distinct cesses :—(1) *Bibahatarpi*, a tax on marriages, levied at the rate of two shillings from each ordinary cultivator, and four shillings from those holding rent-free or lightly assessed lands. A piece of cloth was also presented by each party making the payment. (2) *Sanga salami*, a fee of two shillings levied on the marriage of a widow. (3) *Shagird pesha bibaha*, a fee of nine shillings on the marriage of a *shagird pesha*—a dependant or household slave. These people were chiefly kept by rich *kayasths* as domestic servants and labourers. They received no pay, but simply food and clothing, the marriage fee being paid by their master or owner. (4) *Chhatra bukni salami*, a fee of two shillings paid by those who are permitted to have a painted umbrella (*chhatra*) carried over them at their marriage procession. (5) *Bhojan salami*, a fee of two shillings paid by the Hijili people on occasions of intermarriage with those of Midnapur. (6) *Dingan salami*, a fee of two shillings paid by cultivators of one *zamindari* who went to another to be married. The fee was paid to the landholder on whose estate the marriage took place. (7) *Bhaibati*, a fee of two shillings on the division of property, levied from each person among whom the property is partitioned. (8) *Khelna nauki salami*, a fee or toll of two shillings on boats of merchants who came from other Districts to trade. (9) *Samannay salami*, a fine on re-entrance into caste after slight deviations. (10) *Asuchi tyag*, a fee on being allowed to shorten the period of thirty days during which the *sudras* have to keep their heads unshaven after the death of a

relative, or for any other ceremonial purpose. (11) *Bidhabar*, on granting permission for the use of the village barber and washerman to a widow who had an illegitimate child, and also to the father of the child. Each party paid the fee. (12) *Swami tyag*, a fee on the voluntary separation of husband and wife; paid by both parties. (13) *Bibahani*, a fee paid by those who had two children married in one year. (14) *Kasbichar*, a fee for permission to become a public prostitute. (15) *Jatimala*, a fine paid for the purpose of obtaining purification of caste by persons who made sea voyages; also by those who travelled in the same boat with people of low caste. (16) *Jali*, for permission to barbers to hold a lamp at marriage ceremonies in the house of a fisherman, or other of the low castes. The village barber usually attends all marriages, and it is his duty to hold the lamp at the time of the performance of the ceremony; but the fishermen being one of the degraded castes, it was necessary to purchase immunity from the loss of caste, which would otherwise accrue from his entering their houses. (17) *Barpurbakali kanya*, a fee for permission to a female, after being engaged to one party, to marry another. (18) *Guru tyag chalan*, a fee by a man to obtain readmission to society, after having given up his guru or spiritual guide. (19) *Majur chalan*, a fee to obtain readmission to caste by coolies who had worked in the houses of those of a lower caste than themselves. (20) *Akal bibaha*, a fee paid by those who marry in inauspicious years. (21) *Akl salami*, a fine of two shillings for any of the following offences :—For abusing a parent or a Brahman, or for beating either; for falsely aspersing another's character; for forcibly removing landmarks; for an affray with a man of inferior caste. (22) *Simapar*, a fine for forcibly taking possession of a part of another man's land. (23) *Behurmati*, a fine for improper behaviour, by causing the departure of a guest from rudeness; also inflicted upon a guest who rudely takes his departure. (24) *Behukum bibaha*, a fine for a marriage performed without previous permission. (25) *Asastri*, a fine of four shillings for each of the following offences :—Upon the village barbers and washermen for serving, without previous sanction, those who had forfeited their right to their services; upon dancing-girls who are also public prostitutes; and upon those who generally act in opposition to any of the orders laid down in the *sastra*, or sacred law.

The second class of these illegal cesses are known as *rusumat*, or customary fees, and the following statement shows the number assessed in Majnamuta estate in 1815, and the amount of revenue realized from them by this one landlord :—(1) *Sunia salami*; (2) *Sunia kharcha*; (3) *Dasara salami*; cesses collected from various persons, chiefly *zamindari* servants and accountants, on the first day of the New Year. The collections from these three cesses in the Majnamuta *zamindari* in 1815, amounted to £56, 9s. 10½d. (4) *Paramaniki salami*; a cess levied from the heads of certain castes; amount realized in 1815, £2, 11s. 0d. (5) *Raj situri*; a cess for providing cloth for the idols (*thakurs*); £27, 11s. 7½d. (6) *Huzur pana*, literally, for protection; a personal cess; £17, 19s. 4½d. (7) *Abhisek salami*; a tax on the occasion of some bathing ceremony of the *zamindar*; £49, 1s. 3d. (8) *Bazi ijardar*, a tax for farming expenses; £2, 13s. 0d. (9) *Nankaran doani*; a tax of threepence, or two *anas*, on every *bigha* of land held free of rent by public servants; £74, 12s. 6d. (10) *Ghat salami*; landing-duties upon goods, collected from all parties; £67, 6s. 0d. (11) *Dokan mangan*; a tax upon shops; £2, 12s. 6d. (12) *Bhadui salami*; a tax collected in the month of Bhadra on account of a religious ceremony; £8, 18s. 10d. (13) *Karari*; origin not ascertainable, but a tax for some petty acts of omission; £7. (14) *Thakur mara*, literally, striking the gods; a tax levied upon those who injure grain by walking over it; 14s. 0d. (15) *Jal panch khatia*; a tax levied upon fishermen who use a peculiar description of net of this name; 10s. 0d. (16) *Hola mangni*; a tax on rice canoes; £10, 19s. 0d. (17) *Paikan ani*; a tax of three half-pence, or one *ana* a head levied from police *paiks*; £50, 6s. 5d. (18) *Dudh sag*; a tax on milk and vegetables; £2, 10s. 0d. (19) *Ghat kayeli*; tax upon weighers of grain at markets and landing-places; £1, 14s. 0d. (20) *Kayel salami*; a tax levied from village weighers of grain on their nomination; 14s. 0d. (21) *Khearu*; a tax upon ferries; £2, 8s. 0d. (22) *Thana gumashta salami*; a tax upon clerks of police stations, £4, 10s. 0d. (23) *Kasbian karari*; a tax upon prostitutes; 6s. 0d. (24) *Khal mirzapur*; a tax upon the particular ferry of that name; amount realized not given. (25) *Nimak chhayani*; a tax of ninepence, or six *anas*, upon each salt manufactory (*khalaria*); £7, 12s. 3d. (26) *Kulti Kamalpur*; a tax levied on a particular kind of pulse grain (*dolichos biflorus*); £1, 2s. 0d.

(27) *Mihi chaul*; a tax levied upon the growers of the finer descriptions of rice; £13, 5s. 0d. (28) *Gram nij jot*; a tax levied to meet expenses of the cultivation of the *zamindar's* own village farms; £16, 11s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (29) *Khadal Brahman*; a tax upon a degraded class of Brahmans who act as priests to a low fishing caste called Khadals; 2s. 0d. (30) *Dighi salami*; a tax for the right of fishing in tanks; 5s. 0d. (31) *Mohara salami*; a tax upon a particular class of barbers so called; 4s. 0d. (32) *Jati mala*; a tax for certain offences or deviations from caste rules; 9s. 0d. The total sum realized from these *rusumat* fees on the Majnamuta Estate in 1815, amounted to £430, 18s. 3d.

In collating the foregoing figures, I have here, as elsewhere in this Statistical Account, calculated the rupee at two shillings, as I have no information showing whether *sikka* or Company's rupees were intended.

MANURE is in general use for preventing the exhaustion of the land. About a ton and a half of cow-dung, valued at about 9s., is considered sufficient for an acre of sugar-cane land. For rice lands, from nine to eighteen hundredweights of manure, valued at from 2s. 3d. to 4s. 6d., is required for each acre. The system of allowing land to lie fallow and thus recruit itself, does not prevail in Midnapur, nor is any strict rotation of crops practised. In the case of *kala* or double crop land, after the *aus* or autumn rice has been harvested, a second crop of pulses or oil-seeds is cultivated in the cold weather. This is continued year after year, but cannot be called a 'rotation of crops.'

IRRIGATION is common; and as the irrigating sections of the Midnapur High Level Canal arrive at completion, it may be expected to be much more frequently resorted to than it is at present. The distributaries and village irrigating channels are being rapidly pushed forward, and it is anticipated that they will be completed, and the whole irrigating powers of the canal available, by April 1876. Rice lands within reach of the canal water are freely irrigated, especially in years of deficient rainfall. The irrigation rate at present charged by the canal authorities upon land using the water, is 3s. an acre in the case of all leases taken out prior to 1st May 1873, and 4s. 6d. an acre for all leases after that date. This rate is fixed for the next four years only, after which it may be raised. I have given a

description of the irrigable and navigable powers of the Midnapur High Level Canal in a previous section of this Statistical Account, and also an estimate of its probable ultimate financial results. Besides rice, irrigation is also used for winter crops, such as sugar-cane, *baigun*, radishes, onions, etc.; and in addition to the canal, tanks, dammed up streams, and small natural water-courses are utilized for the purpose. The irrigation of sugar-cane land, which requires a great deal of water, is estimated to cost the cultivator as much as £3 an acre. Wells are not used for irrigation purposes in Midnapur District.

THE NATURAL CALAMITIES to which Midnapur is subject, are of three kinds,—blights, floods, and droughts.—all of which occasionally afflict the District. Blights, however, never occur on such a scale as to affect the general prosperity of the District, and are usually confined to a few fields here and there. The damage is principally caused by insects, called *bhenpu* and *bhoma*, which destroy the young paddy plants, even after they have blossomed. To kill, or drive them away, the cultivators use burning torches, tied to a long rope or bamboo, and carried over the fields at night; the insects burn themselves by flying up into the lights.

DROUGHTS are not of frequent occurrence in Midnapur; nor, when they do take place, are they usually of so severe a character as to cause a general destruction of the crops. Those lands which principally depend for their cultivation upon rain water sometimes suffer greatly in dry seasons, while those which have the advantages of artificial irrigation are scarcely affected at all. There is a great demand for irrigation in seasons of deficient rainfall; but this will be fully met when the irrigation works connected with the Midnapur High Level Canal are completed, when the District will be placed beyond the danger of drought. The occasions, since the District passed into the hands of the British, in which droughts have occurred on so serious a scale as to materially affect the general prosperity of the District, were in 1792, 1851, and 1865. In the former year, the price of rice is said to have risen as high as from £1, 1s. 10d. to £1, 7s. 3d. a hundredweight, and the distress was so great that the Salt Agent at Hijili recommended the Board of Revenue to prohibit the export of grain from the District. This proposal, however, was not sanctioned. The drought of 1865 will be subsequently referred to when I come

to mention the famine caused by the failure of the rains in 1865, and by the inundations of 1866.

The following paragraphs regarding the localities most liable to drought, and the procedure of Government regarding suspensions and remissions to revenue in seasons of drought, are condensed from Mr. Bayley's MS. Report on Midnapur. The *parganas* most liable to this calamity are Kharagpur, Kedarkund, Balrampur, Shahpur, part of Kasijora, Dhenkia, Bhanjbhum, or Midnapur, with the *parganas* between Belda and Agrachaur, and between Belda and Dantun, on the east of the great high road. In the Hijili portion of the District, drought is rare, and one week's rain at the very end of the season will be sufficient to save the rice crop, which does not require transplanting as in other parts of Midnapur. With regard to the subject of remissions and suspensions of revenue, the Board of Revenue ruled, in reply to a letter from Mr. Bayley, dated 21st October 1851, referring to the severe drought of that year, that in permanently settled estates the proprietors had no claim to remissions or suspensions of revenue, and that the Collector must only exercise such discretion as is vested in him under Section 11 of Act I. of 1845. Mr. Commissioner Mills, ruling on the same subject in 1851, but referring to suspensions in estates under Government Management, thus wrote :—'In *khas* estates, where the rent is collected from the cultivators, the amount of loss estimated to have occurred, where too heavy to be borne by the peasants themselves, must be abandoned. In villages under Government management and let in farm, inquiry must be made in cases where it is solicited, remissions must be given in cases where the damage done to the crops is considerable, the profit being altogether insufficient to admit of the losses being made good by the managers or farmers. It is but just to deal fairly with these renters, as no very large profit has been left them; but as all parties will endeavour to exaggerate their losses, it behoves you to exercise the utmost caution in admitting the plea of *nukhsani* (losses), and their inability to pay revenue in consequence.'

Acting upon these principles, a detailed inquiry was ordered to be made of the individual losses owing to the drought of 1851, which it was estimated had resulted in the loss of nearly five-eighths of the entire rice crop. The following letter of instructions to the officers deputed to make the

inquiry, will explain the principles upon which such remissions and suspensions are granted in calamitous seasons :— ‘You should always have the map by you, otherwise all the bad fields of *two* villages may be shown as those of one, in order to increase the average of loss in that one. Lastly, you will plainly explain to the farmers and cultivators, that unless within fifteen days of any indulgence being sanctioned the farmers do not fill their *rayatwari* papers, showing how they will distribute among the cultivators (and you should see that it equals the full amount they receive) the sums now remitted to them as a *peculiar indulgence*, such farmers will forfeit all right or title to any consideration or remission whatever. You are requested to visit and examine *every* village yourself, as the drought is very partial, adjacent villages having, the one good, the other bad, crops. You will please to follow out the following principles :—(1) Wherever there has been wilful loss, you will state the loss, but recommend no remission. (2) The loss should be calculated, not on the *khas* assessment, but on the actual collections (*hasil*), less all collection charges (*saranjami*), of the farmers. (3) The plan of native records for such an investigation should be adopted, viz. a *rayatwari* list of out-turn of crops, in weight and value; and you are requested to take these papers, together with the English and Bengali Final Settlement Statements, with you.’

FLOODS, caused by the sudden rising of the rivers as well as from heavy rainfall, are common in the southern and eastern portions of the District. Within the present century, severe floods occurred in the years 1823, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1848, 1850, 1864, 1866, 1868, all of which disastrously affected crops. For the protection of the land against inundation, there are several important embankments, maintained by the Public Works Department. These protective works will be treated in detail on a subsequent page, and I here pass on to a brief mention of the principal inundations that have afflicted the southern and eastern parts of Midnapur (which compose the Hijili portion of the District), showing their effects on the country, the amount of remissions and suspensions which they rendered necessary, and the injury done to the embankments. The Statement is condensed from Mr. Bayley’s ms. Report :—

(1) In May 1823 a flood occurred which swept away the whole line of embankments. The country was so inundated

that the flood broke into the Collector's Court at Contai (Kanthi), and washed away the records. The arable land was greatly injured from the effects of the salt water. An inquiry was made into the losses sustained by the flood, but it was not thought necessary to make any remissions or suspensions of revenue. Much sickness was caused, and numbers of the agricultural population died, or were so incapacitated from labour as to seriously throw back agricultural operations for that and the following year. (2) A second flood occurred in October 1831, when the winter rice crop was well grown. The whole line of embankments was washed away, and the rice crop, which was well advanced, was almost totally destroyed. A full inquiry into the losses sustained was made by Mr. Collector Wyatt, and the Government granted remissions of revenue in consequence, to the extent of £8567, 16s. 0d. (3) Again, in October 1832, a destructive flood occurred, which did great damage to the ripening crops, and which overtopped embankments fifteen feet in height. An investigation made by Mr. Collector Wyatt into the losses sustained by the cultivators, made it necessary for Government to allow remissions of revenue to the extent of £8469, 2s. 0d. (4) A more serious flood occurred in May 1833, which again entirely destroyed the embankments, and which was followed by another in September 1834, in which more than half the crops were swept away; 7112 persons drowned, or half the population of the flooded tract; and 865 villages inundated. A careful and minute investigation by three European officers of the District, resulted in Government granting the sufferers remissions of revenue amounting to £62,878, 18s. 0d., and suspensions to the extent of £49,713, 4s. 0d. A letter from the Board of Revenue to Government, dated 9th May 1837, thus speaks of these two floods : 'These calamities were of no light or common kind, and their consequences were of no transient or temporary character. The agriculturists had not to suffer merely the occasional losses of an unprosperous season and a bad harvest, to be repaid by succeeding years of fertility and abundance. They were overwhelmed in two successive years by tremendous visitations of Providence. By the first of these, more than half of the crops were swept away, more than half the population was destroyed, and the fertility of the soil was almost annihilated. Yet this was not the whole calamity. Hardly had a year elapsed before a second destruction took place.'

(5) Other floods occurred in January 1839 and May 1840, in the latter of which, although the sea embankments stood very well, the country suffered by the bursting of the interior embankments. No remissions or suspensions of revenue, however, were considered necessary in consequence. (6) Again in August 1845, floods did severe damage to the Kalmijol and Midnapur Embankments; the Fiscal Divisions of Mainachaura, Sabang, and Kasijora were totally inundated, and the rice land injured. An investigation into the losses sustained was made by the Native Deputy Collector, but no remissions or suspensions of revenue were considered necessary in consequence. (7) In October 1848, a flood did much damage to the embankments, which were overtopped and breached in many places. The crops were much damaged, and after an investigation by Mr. Collector Malet, remissions were granted to the extent of £1081, 16s. 0d., and suspensions to the extent of £14,279, 14s. 0d. (8) In April 1850, another inundation overtopped and broke away the embankments in the sea-board Fiscal Divisions, and along the banks of the large rivers. Fortunately, no crops were on the ground, except indigo, and no remissions or suspensions of revenue were considered necessary. (9) The great storm wave which accompanied the cyclone of October 1864, and which caused such wide-spread devastation and loss of life, will be treated of in a separate account of the cyclone, given in a subsequent page. (10) Also the inundation of 1866, which followed the severe drought of the previous year, and increased the distress then felt. (11) Another severe flood followed in 1868; and several partial inundations in subsequent years.

COMPENSATING INFLUENCES IN CASES OF FLOODS AND DROUGHTS exist, but only to a slight degree, in Midnapur District. If the rice growing on the low lands is destroyed by floods, the loss cannot be compensated by any increased produce of the higher levels, as the latter form but an insignificant portion as compared with the area of the low lands. In the case of drought, however, the loss of crop sustained in the high lands is partially compensated by the produce of the lowlands. If the rains set in early and heavily, the crops growing in low situations are overtopped and *kept* under water, and consequently destroyed. If they set in late, the crops on the high sites suffer from drought. When the rains fall betimes, and in moderate quantity throughout the season, the crops on

all parts are generally remunerative, and a more or less abundant harvest is the result. Mr. Bayley, in his Report, states that there may be some particularly low tracts, as for instance a part of Kasijora, where even a moderate rainfall, not more than barely sufficient for the crops on high situations, is likely to entail the loss of the season's harvest, from over-abundance of water. This is a case, however, which, like many of the calamities of Bengal, might be remedied by engineering skill.

FAMINE PRICES.—The highest prices of rice and paddy reached during the famine of 1865—66 was £1, 1s. 10d. to £1, 7s. 3d. a hundredweight for rice, and half these rates for paddy, or unhusked rice. These prices were reached in the months of August and September 1866 at Kespur village, in the Headquarters Subdivision. These were the highest rates reached anywhere in the District; the highest prices at Narayangarh mark being 18s. 8d. a hundredweight; while in the town of Midnapur the price of rice never rose beyond 17s. 3d. a hundredweight, which was reached in August 1866. A history of the famine in Midnapur is given at pp. 120 to 132. Up to the present time, the local prices of food grains have not returned to what used to be considered their ordinary rates before the famine. Prior to that calamity, the ordinary selling price of rice was 4s. 1d. a hundredweight, or Rs. 1/8 a maund, and paddy, 2s. 0½d. a hundredweight. In 1871, the Collector returned the ordinary bazar rate of the best cleaned rice at 6s. 9d. a hundredweight, or Rs. 2/8 a maund; common rice, such as that used by the labouring classes, 4s. 4d. a hundredweight, or Rs. 1.9.7. a maund. The Collector states that Government relief operations become necessary when the prices of food rise as high as three times above their ordinary rate.

FAMINE WARNINGS.—Failure of local crops, especially of the winter rice crop of one season, an unusual rise in prices, together with an absence of importation of grain from other Districts, serve as a warning of impending scarcity and possibly famine. The Collector states, that if in January or February, soon after the reaping of the winter rice crop, the price of grain rises as high as three times the ordinary rate, actual famine may be expected later in the year. The District mainly depends upon the *aman* or cold weather rice harvest for its food, the *aus*, or autumn rice crops, being but insignificant as compared with the *aman*. If, therefore,

anything like a total failure of the winter crop should take place, the next September harvest could not make up the loss, and the consequence would be a scarcity amounting to famine. The means of importation in this part of the country, in the event of famine, are reported as insufficient. There are no railroads, and no navigable rivers in the interior of the District. The Midnapur High Level Canal, however, will remedy this state of affairs. When completed it will connect the town of Midnapur with the Hugli at Ulubaria, fifteen miles below Calcutta, and will be navigable throughout its entire length, a distance of fifty-three miles, including the crossings of the large rivers on its route. The three lower sections of the canal, from Panchkura to Ulubaria, have been in use for some time; and it is anticipated that the upper section, from the town of Midnapur to Panchkura, will be completed, and the canal open for navigation throughout its entire length, during the present year (1873). Hitherto Midnapur has had to depend upon its roads for the means of importation, as a protection against scarcity and famine. These are in tolerably good order, and might to a certain extent avert the extremity of famine, even without importations by means of the canal. As a further protection against famine, the Collector states that the only suggestion he can offer, is the extension of the system of navigable canals running throughout the District, and connected with the large rivers of the surrounding tracts.

THE FAMINE OF 1866.—Midnapur is the border District between Bengal and Orissa. The latter Province was desolated by the great famine of 1865—66, which was also severely felt in parts of Lower Bengal. As might be expected, Midnapur suffered more than any other District of Bengal Proper from this memorable calamity. The following brief history of the famine in Midnapur is compiled from official letters and papers, and the Report of the Famine Commissioners. The severe and protracted drought of 1865 had resulted in the loss of about half the main rice crop of that year. Distress first manifested itself in the eastern and southern portions of the District (Hijili and Tamluk) in September 1865, by the frequency of grain robberies. In Doro and Gumgarh Fiscal Divisions, of which nearly three-fourths of the population had been swept away by the cyclone of 1864, high prices began to prevail in September, and the emigration which then set in

from the place disclosed a belief among the people of approaching famine. On the 21st September 1864, the Deputy Magistrate of Tamluk reported that one-fourth of Doro Fiscal Division was lying waste from want of cultivators to cultivate it, although in the northern and north-western parts of the same *pargana* the crops were promising. He added, that not less than a thousand persons, sufferers from the cyclone inundations, were receiving charitable support, and that no relief could be anticipated till about the middle of November, when the main rice crop would be gathered in. The *mahajans*, or grain dealers, wanted for themselves such rice as had been saved from the cyclone inundations, and they were unwilling to sell. No anticipation of drought, however, was entertained by the Deputy Magistrate, although he suggested that funds for the relief of the distressed might be supplied. In the neighbouring part of the District, Hijili, the Deputy Magistrate of Nagwan reported that the high prices prevailing in Calcutta were drawing away large quantities of rice, and expressed his fears that this circumstance alone might produce a famine in his neighbourhood; while at the same time, in the central and north-eastern parts of Hijili, which had chiefly suffered from the effects of the cyclone, the cultivators were severely experiencing the want of grain. A splendid harvest, however, was anticipated later in the autumn, and the Deputy Magistrate, while asking for money in aid of the prevailing distress, did not consider that a state of famine had been reached. So ended the year 1864.

The rains of 1865 broke up unusually early; no rainfall of any consequence occurred later than the 15th September; and as time wore on, and the drought still continued, the aspect of affairs became very grave. Early in October, the Magistrate, Mr. Herschel, proceeded on a tour through the District, with a view to ascertain what foundation existed for the anxiety which began to be felt, and the rumours of impending famine which became rife. The result of this investigation was to confirm the accounts given of present, and the apprehension entertained of future distress. On the 13th October, the Deputy Magistrate reported the drought as becoming serious; that one-fourth of the rice crop had already perished; and that if no rain fell soon, 'he had no doubt there would be a famine, the like of which had not been seen or heard of for many years.'

The autumn drought of 1865, succeeding the inundations of the previous year, led the grain dealers to refuse to make advances to the cultivators except in exchange for personal property. The middle and next lower classes, who were possessed of articles that they could pledge, were saved from want ; but the poorest classes, who were accustomed to live on daily wages, as well as the old and infirm, widows and orphans, dependent on the charity of their neighbours, already began to be driven to extremity. It was not that rice was absolutely wanting ; for large imports were at that time taking place from the Balasore District, and it was also being brought from the central parts of Midnapur. But the price, which then ranged from 7s. to 9s. 4d. a hundredweight, or from twelve to sixteen *sers* per rupee, was quite beyond the means of the poorer classes in Hijili. A few deaths were reported about this time, but were not clearly established. On the 17th October, the Magistrate, in reporting the distress in Hijili to the Commissioner of the Division, proposed to establish at once six or seven rice kitchens, to be supported partly by private subscriptions, and partly by contributions from Government, as the landlord of the greater part of Hijili. The proposal was approved by the Commissioner, and public meetings of the residents were held at Midnapur, Nagwan, and Tamluk, at which subscriptions were collected or promised, for the relief of the distressed.

In December 1865 came a certain amount of relief, in consequence of the harvesting of the rice crop. On the 20th of that month, a meeting was held at Midnapur to take into consideration the propriety of realizing the promised subscriptions, in anticipation of an expected renewal of high prices in March and April. The unanimous opinion of the meeting was, that the promised contributions should be called in. Measures were taken to this end ; but in the more favourable aspect of affairs which then presented itself, the ardour of the subscribers had cooled, and only a comparatively small portion of the amount originally promised was obtained. Similar meetings were held at Tamluk and Nagwan, at which all the subscriptions that could be obtained were collected, and the subscribers recommended that rice should be purchased with the money while it was comparatively cheap, and stored

against the time when it would be required, and when it would be selling at a dearer rate. The several sums collected were kept in hand ; but no rice was purchased, and no further active measures in connection with relief were adopted until the month of May following, when they became imperative.

From the latter part of 1865, gang robbery (*dakaiti*) and thefts with violence had been rapidly increasing, owing to the general distress, and to a 'rumour, if not a prospect, of impending famine,' until, in April, the Commissioner of the Division visited Midnapur, and reported on the increase of crime. From November to April, 34 cases of gang robbery (*dakaiti*) had been reported in the four western police circles (*thanas*) adjoining the Tributary State of Morbhanj and the Manbhum District, which are inhabited principally by a rude class of people belonging to the Santal and Bhumij tribes, and are covered with jungle. In the three next police circles, two of which are about half under jungle, the gang robberies had amounted to 16. The remaining fifteen police circles had produced 17 such cases only out of an aggregate total of 67. In the seven jungle police circles, grain had generally been the object of the plunder, whereas in the others silver and metals had been carried off. The accused invariably confessed, and pleaded that they had been driven to the commission of the crimes by sheer want.

The Commissioner, in reporting his views on the increase of crime, wrote as follows on the 15th April 1866 :—'In the month of November last, under a more sudden and alarming prospect of famine than is now entertained, the prices were generally twenty per cent. higher than they are at present. In Midnapur, rice was 14s. a hundredweight, or eight *sers* for the rupee ; and even now prices are exactly double what they were before the cyclone of 1864. In the year 1766, the price of rice was as high as £1, 8s. 0d. a hundredweight, or four *sers* for the rupee, equivalent to about £3, 14s. 0d. a hundredweight, or 1½ *sers* per rupee at the present time; but with rain to encourage sales, of which there seems every prospect at present, I have every hope that 14s. a hundredweight, or eight *sers* for the rupee, will not be reached again. Mr. W. Terry, the manager of Messrs. Wastson & Co.'s extensive property in this District, informs me that he has no apprehension of

famine, and that as soon as rain falls, prices will immediately go down, and employment in cultivation will put a stop to further plunder.

'In dealing with the increase of crime, there has been no want of activity on the part of the police, or of severity on the part of the courts. The punishments, have invariably been heavy, but in my estimation not too severe for the offence, which has greedfully become, no matter from what cause, habitual, and which must be put down by example. I believe that the late Judge, Mr. C. P. Hobhouse, who has tried many of these cases with the greatest possible care, was under the impression that there was no such grievous distress as to palliate the offence, and looked upon the plunder of other property simultaneously with that of rice as evidence that it was general lawlessness, rather than hunger, which led to these gang robberies. In one case, however, of rice plunder, in which hunger was pleaded before the Judge, and a sentence of six months' imprisonment was awarded to the offenders, the High Court animadverted on the inadequacy of the sentence, and I think reasonably so ; as in that case, as well as in most of the others that have come to my notice, there is clear evidence of the parties of *dakait*s going out armed with a view to resist opposition. I have unfortunately not had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Hobhouse, and ascertaining from him precisely what his opinion was; but if it be such as I have stated, I must differ from him. There is not a single person with whom I have conversed on the subject during my stay in Midnapur who does not agree with me, that ample evidence exists to prove that hunger is the origin and cause of the augmentation of crime—(1st) in the fact that such cumbersome property as rice is plundered in so many cases ; (2d) in the large number of persons that are engaged ; (3d) in the entire want of any organized scheme known to the professional *dakait*; (4th) the readiness with which a majority of the accused confess ; and lastly, the reason assigned for the commission of the crime.'

In order to check the increase of offences, the District Police was strengthened by the addition of two special Inspectors and fifty men in January and February, and the village police apportioned into small bodies under the orders of the constables. It was also recommended to extend the

provisions of the 'Whipping Act' to certain parts of the District. The Commissioner wrote : 'The jails are, I believe, no punishment to the ignorant class of Bhumijis and Santals at this season; but on the contrary, with the food and shelter provided, they are rather agreeable and genial. I would therefore strongly recommend that the terms of the Act be immediately extended to the jungle police circles (*thanas*) of Gopiballabhpur, Jhargaon, Bhimpur, Garhbeta, and Salbani.' The Act was extended accordingly.

Meanwhile distress was getting sharper, and, as anticipated at the meetings held at Tamluk and Nagwan, prices rapidly rose again soon after the gathering in of the rice harvest, which the drought had rendered only a half crop all over the District. In April the Commissioner reported, that although, judging by prices, the distress was not so great as it was just before the harvest, yet that the old and infirm were beginning to die from insufficient food. Relief measures became necessary in this month. The Collector, who had gone into the interior of the District, thus describes the distress at Gopiballabhpur :—'The people who gathered round us to receive food were very emaciated. Rice was still selling at 9 and 10 *seers* for the rupee (from 11s. 2d. to 12s. 5d. a hundred weight), but I commenced at once to organize measures for general relief.' On the 21st May, the Collector noted in his usual weekly price-current that 'there is no doubt now that deaths from starvation among the old, the weak, and the children are occurring.' Starving people from the interior began to flock into the town, and on the 24th May, when distribution of rice purchased with the funds already in hand commenced, upwards of two hundred persons applied for relief. Meanwhile the Board of Revenue granted the sum of £500 for relief operations in Midnapur.

On the 28th May 1866, a public meeting was called for the purpose of organizing systematic relief operations; at this, resolutions to the following effect were passed :—(1st) The appointment of sub-committees and local relief committees in the interior, under the control of a central committee at the headquarters station; (2) the appointment of a labour sub-committee, for the purpose of exacting light work from such applicants for relief as were capable of labouring in some form

for their daily wages ; (3) the appointment of committees to superintend the gratuitous distribution of food to those who were physically unable to labour ; (4) the institution of an infirmary for the sick and diseased paupers, whom it was considered desirable to separate from the rest, and of an asylum for the support of such paupers as were unable, from weakness due to starvation only, to attend the daily distribution of food in the town. For distributions in the interior, Messrs. Watson & Co., who hold large estates in the District, agreed to allow there assistants to superintend the gratuitous distribution of rice at the factories of Chattarganj, Goaltor, Gutia, and Sildah.

Thirteen relief depots and sub-depots were immediately established, and the reports received from them up to the end of the first week of June showed that the Government grant of £500 would not last long. Midnapur not being a wealthy District, considerable difficulty was experienced in raising private subscription. The Collector accordingly wrote to the Commissioner on the 12th June, to the effect that, even if the Central Committee could succeed in collecting private subscriptions to the amount of £100, that sum, added to the grant from Government, would suffice for little more than the outlay to the end of the month. Moreover, it was to be expected that the number of applicants for relief would increase as it became generally known that Government had come forward to aid the starving. A further grant was therefore asked from Government. At the same time an urgent appeal for assistance was made to all landholders within twenty miles of Midnapur, to the Raja of Jhargaon, and to several non-resident proprietors. The appeal, however, was but scantily responded to.

A further grant of £3000 was made by Government in the Public Works Department ; and at a meeting held on the 15th June, it was resolved, in consultation with the Executive Engineer, to put in hand the following special relief works :—
(1) Cleaning and reopening an important drainage line in the town of Midnapur, known as Malet's *khal*, which had been allowed to fall into disuse ; estimated expenditure, £400.
(2) Excavation of new tanks at the following places :—(a) At Samli, about four miles south of Dantun, on the Cattack road;

estimated cost, £250. (b) At Daijuri, on the Bhimpur road, about sixteen miles west of Midnapur ; estimated cost, £250. (c) At Satbankura, on the Raniganj road, twenty miles north of Midnapur : estimated cost, £250. (d) At Garhbeta, ten miles farther up the same road; estimated cost, £300. (3) Cleaning tanks in the vicinity of the town of Midnapur : estimated cost, £50 Total esstimated cost of the above works, £1500. The balance of the grant, £1500, was reserved for a large tank then in course of excavation close to the site of the new jail.

Between the 17th May and end of November 1866, an average of 484 men and women were daily employed on these and other minor works in the station of Midnapur, the result of the operations being thus reported by the Executive Engineer :—‘At first, I gave daily-labour payments, namely $3\frac{3}{4}$ d., or $2\frac{1}{2}$ anas, for men ; 3d., or 2 anas, for women; and $2\frac{1}{4}$ d., or $1\frac{1}{2}$ anas, for children; but this plan was found to yield so little work for the expenditure incurred, that, to avoid excessive rates, I resorted to task-work. The rates were proportioned to the stiffness of the soil. As the excavations proceeded, the difficulty of digging increased, and I have given as high as 15s. 0d. or Rs. $\frac{7}{8}$ per 1000 cubic feet. I estimate that the rates throughout enabled an able-bodied labourer to earn from $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $5\frac{1}{4}$ d., or from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ anas per diem; and women about $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ anas each. The averge rate at which rice was sold between May and November was 16s. a hundredweight, or 7 sers per rupee, which, taking the average amount earned by men and women together at 3d., or 2 anas, each per diem, would give nearly two pounds of rice per head daily. I never paid my work-people in any other way than in cash; but at each place where work was in progress the Collector had a depot of rice, from which the labourers were supplied. When the rains set in, the excavated portions of the tanks filled with water, and the labourers could no longer dig, but as far as possible they were employed in working and dressing the banks. Out of the grant of £3000, I made over to the Collector £740 for the purpose of constructing certain jungle roads, the expenditure on which was kept in his hands.

‘I consider that if the relief works had been commenced earlier in the season, they would have done much more good. As it was, the people who applied for work were frequently so

weak and emaciated that they were not fit for labour. After I commenced work on the central prison tank, the applications from women became much in excess of those from men; and as the women could not dig, and I required not more than two women to each man, I was obliged to refuse the women who were in excess. At first I got men in larger numbers, but as soon as agricultural operations commenced, many of the men went off, leaving the women. There was, however, some employment for women under Mr. Verner, the Assistant Magistrate. When the contract system was adopted, people often worked in families, men and women together ; but women who had no men belonging to them probably had difficulty in obtaining employment. It was only at the commencement of the agricultural operations that the number of women seeking work was in excess of the men. I did not observe this to be the case later in the season.'

Meanwhile the famine was growing more severe and by the end of June 1866, eighteen relief depots had been opened in the District. A European Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Man, was deputed into the interior of the District on the 20th June, and was on tour for about two weeks. The reports received from that gentleman showed that distress was on the increase, and that deaths from starvation were occurring, particularly in the neighbourhood of Dantun, and in the Jungle Mahals, where rice was practically unobtainable. The depots in the interior were on the whole working satisfactorily, though the sub-committees and gentlemen in charge of them were not, as a rule, disposed to carry out the principle insisted on by the Central Committee, that gratuitous relief should be given only to those who were physically incapable of all labour. The reasons for this were said to be—*first*, that though many of the paupers were willing to work, there was no work for them at that season of the year; and *second*, that when applicants capable of labour were told to go to Midnapur, where work would be provided for them, they refused lest they should die on the road. For these it was absolutely necessary to provide local relief, if they were not to be left to starve.

At the beginning of July 1866, rice sold in Midnapur town at 17s. 3d. a hundredweight, or 6½ *sers* for the rupee; and in the Jungle Mahals at *nominally* 16s. a hundredweight, or 7

ers for the rupee. In the latter part of the District, however, it was not procurable, and the police frequently reported that they could not obtain a sufficiency for even their own use. The opinion at this time seems to have been almost universal that there was plenty of grain in the District, but that the *mahajans*, or rice merchants, would not part with it except at exorbitant prices. Whether this was really the case or not, however, it became clear that importation of rice on a considerable scale must be undertaken if the depots already established were to be kept at work. In August relief was afforded to nearly ten thousand people daily throughout the District, and instructions were given to all the depots to issue only 4 *chhataks* (8 oz.) of dry rice to each adult, and half that quantity to each child. The Central Committee considered that experience warranted them in pronouncing this scale of rations to be sufficient ; but the Board of Revenue shortly afterwards directed that the daily rations of adult paupers should be raised to 6 *chhataks* (12 oz.), and of children to 3 *chhataks* (6 oz.). With regard to the question of the sufficiency or otherwise of the daily allowance thus given, the Famine Commissioners have made the following remarks :— ‘We are of opinion that even 6 *chhataks* ($\frac{3}{4}$ lb.) of rice daily, without any nitrogenous food, is insufficient to maintain healthy existence in an adult ; still more so the smaller quantity first prescribed by the Midnapur Committee. The low scale was adopted in the belief that the paupers nearly doubled their allowance by begging in the town ; but we think it would have been better to avoid the risk of insufficiency by supplying to each pauper such a quantity of food as was considered by medical authority to be sufficient to support life in health. In the centres in the interior there was no such opportunity of supplementing the allowance by begging ; and at one of these the quantity given was at one time as low as 2 *chhataks* (4 ozs.) to each pauper. We have no doubt that in this District an unfortunate error was committed on this point. . . . It may, however, be explained that the reluctance of the Committee to increase the daily rations arose from a desire not to check public charity. It was ascertained that some paupers, after receiving their daily allowance of dry rice in the morning, were in the habit of going to the town, where, in the course

of the day, they obtained from charity, nearly, if not quite, as much more. The whole was then cooked and eaten in the evening.'

In July 1866, a sum of £100 was remitted to Calcutta to purchase rice; and the Board of Revenue authorized the Collector to advance from the public treasury any amount that might be needed for the purpose of organizing effectual measures for relieving the distress. The Board, however, declined to undertake the importation of grain into Midnapur District, as they had been compelled to do in the case of Orissa, and would leave importations to the Central Committee. The Collector accordingly telegraphed for rice from Calcutta; and charitable depots, for sale of rice below cost price, were opened for the benefit of the poorest money-earning classes. It was also resolved that cooked food should be introduced as a compulsory measure at all depots, the Commissioner being of opinion that, by not allowing the paupers the option of taking their rice raw or cooked, many, to save their castes, would decline to accept relief at all. Strict instructions were issued to this effect, and at the same time the necessity of introducing some sort of labour system amongst the paupers was urgently pressed upon the several Local Committees. With the exception of two or three instances, it is believed that the rules with regard to the issue of cooked food were strictly carried out at all the depots, and the result soon appeared in a considerable reduction in the number of applicants. It was alleged that the paupers preferred starving to losing their caste, as they believed they would do if they ate the cooked rice offered to them. It may, however, be doubted that any such preference was really entertained: it is more probable that the refusal to receive cooked food arose from a desire to cause the issue of it to be discontinued. There is nothing to show that a single pauper sacrificed his life on account of this prejudice. The class of people to whom gratuitous relief was given belonged to the very lowest people, who are not ordinarily very punctilious about caste observances.

The famine reached its height in the months of August and September, and a special Deputy Collector was appointed to superintend relief operations in Dantun Fiscal Division and the Jungle Mahals, where the scarcity was sorest. The Board

of Revenue, despite its previous resolution not to import rice into the District, was forced to take action, and despatched the Government steamer *Feroze* to Rangoon for a cargo of rice, to the value of £3000, for Midnapur. Accordingly, a cargo of 4628 bags of rice arrived at Diamond Harbour on the 24th September. Arrangements had been previously made for unloading the vessel ; and by the 1st October the rice was on its way to Kaila Ghat, the point where the Calcutta and Midnapur Trunk Road crosses the Rupnarayan, thence to be conveyed to Midnapur town and the interior.

The stock of rice thus received was considered to be more than sufficient to last out the famine ; and from the beginning of October the distress began to decrease. During that month all the charitable sale shops that remained open at the end of September were closed, with the exception of those at Dantun and Kasiari, and those for the sale of food to the men employed on public works at Kharagpur, Samli, and Jalburi. The distribution of gratuitous relief, however, proceeded without interruption, the number of applicants gradually declining. During the month of November the charitable sale shops still remaining open were closed. The prices of grain rapidly lowered as soon as the rain in October gave assurance of an abundant harvest.

At a meeting of the Central Committee, held on the 6th November, it was resolved to bring relief operations to an end, by closing all the depots after the 15th. The last reports received from the interior showed that rice was selling at prices varying for 12s. 5¼d. a hundredweight, or 9 *sers* for the rupee, in Gopiballabhpur, to 10s. 2d. a hundredweight, or 11 *sers* for the rupee, at Dantun ; 8s. 3½d. a hundredweight, or 13½ *sers* for the rupee, at places to the northward; and 7s. a hundredweight, or 16 *sers* for the rupee, at Kasiari. In Midnapur town itself, the price of rice varied according to the quantity exported, from 8s. to 10s. 2d. a hundredweight, or from 14 to 11 *sers* for the rupee. As these rates indicated that the famine was at an end, it was resolved to close the smaller depots, giving to each adult pauper a piece of cloth, eight anas (a shilling) in money, and rice sufficient to support him, at the rate of 8 *chhataks*, or 1 lb. a day, up to the 30th November. Children were to receive half these allowances. The depots were all closed on the date fixed; but the asylum for the weak,

with the infirmary and hospital for sick and diseased paupers, was kept open some time longer.

The average number of paupers relieved daily from June to November was as follows :—June, 5155 ; July, 7442 ; August, 9606 ; September, 8752 ; October, 6476 ; November, 4274. The total number of relief centres and sub-depots established from first to last in Midnapur District was twenty-three. The first opened was that of Gopiballabhpur, on the 19th May ; closed on the 30th November. The last opened was that of Jambani, on the 26th August ; also closed on the 30th November. No accurate statistics of the mortality in Midnapur caused by the famine can be procured. The Collector is of opinion that it amounted to about 50,000 or one-tenth of the total population in the tracts seriously affected. He estimated that in the western part of the District from ten to fifteen per cent. of the population died of starvation and diseases induced by it ; that in the central portion, and in the Contai (Kanthi) Subdivision, from two to three per cent. ; and in Tamluk a half per cent. perished. The worst suffering was in the jungle parts adjoining Manbhum District. Mr. Terry, the manager of Messrs. Watson & Co.'s estates, speaks of the distress in that tract in the following terms :—'There the stone-masons and the ironsmelters one and all died. I don't think that any relief reached them. They kept to the hills and jungles, and never came to us. Some relief was sent out to a place called Balbahani for them, but it was too late, and, when it was sent, was insufficient in quantity. They did not get enough.'

The funds raised for the relief of the distressed amounted to £7735, contributed by the Board of Revenue and the Calcutta Famine Relief Committee, to which £2373, 10s. were added by subscription. Besides this, 10,469 hundredweights of rice were supplied to the District at a cost of £5303, 8s., which, deducting the sum of £711, 9s., realized from charitable sales of rice, leaves a total of £14,700, 9s. spent in affording relief to the starving population. This, however, is exclusive of money expended on public works for the purpose of providing labour for the poor. The sum of £7373, 12s. was placed at the disposal of the Magistrate for the employment of labour on works, of which £4312, 16s. was expended up to the end of November. Also £16819, 10s. were placed at the

disposal of the officers of the Public Works Department for ordinary and special works, and of which £10,459, 12s. were returned as expended.

The Famine Commissioners sum up the results of their inquiry into the distress in Midnapur in the following words : It is clear that the nature and degree of the distress were not known and operations were not commenced sufficiently early. Comparatively large as was the relief at last afforded, the Collector does not think that at best it reached half the starving population, and there was unhappily a large mortality, estimated about 50,000, or about one-tenth of the whole population of the tracts, seriously afflicted. But in some of the more remote parts the mortality was, it is to be feared, larger than this proportion. Mr. Terry's statement seems to show that in some parts the labouring population died in larger proportion ; and it is stated that in one jungly tract the population of stone-masons and iron-smelters almost entirely disappeared. Late in the season rice was imported by the Board of Revenue, but it was too late. It then proved that the Collector's later estimates of the amount of relief required exceeded even the eventual necessity. The new crop was excellent. From October the famine very rapidly abated, and when the crop came in there was cheapness and plenty.

'Although there were exceptions, the Collector states that, notwithstanding the wealth and resources of the District, the natives, as a body, did not assist till pressed to do so. The *zamindars*, who did much, were the exception. The superior classes of cultivators seem to have suffered very little, but doubts have been thrown upon the voluntary character of some subscriptions for the sufferers realized from them.' The foregoing account does not include the two Fiscal Divisions of Chandrakona and Barda which, although now included in Midnapur, at the time of the famine formed part of Hugli District. Considerable distress was felt by the weaving population in this part of the country, but it does not call for separate notice here.

EMBANKMENTS.—The Midnapur embankment system forms one of the most important features of the District. I condense the following paragraphs on the subject from Mr. Bayley's *Ms. Account of Midnapur, 1852*. Previous to our acquisition of the

country, the charge of embankments appears to have been borne by the *zamindars*. The Company's Government at first appointed the local officers as *ex-officio* superintendents, to watch the condition of the embankments, and see that they were kept in a proper state of repair. Regulation XXXIII. of 1793 entrusted the Collector with this duty, and authorized him to employ a professional officer, but at his own responsibility, to complete the works required, subject only to the necessity of reporting to the Board of Revenue, who passed the estimates. In 1801, Lord Wellesley, having in view the effects of the inundation at Murshidabad, appointed a committee of officials at that station to the charge of the embankments, and this plan was recognised in other parts of the country by Regulation VI. of 1806. These committees were ultimately abolished by Regulation XI. of 1829, and their powers vested in special officers appointed by Government.

Mr. Bayley, in his Report, thus describes the system under which the Midnapur embankments were maintained in 1851 :—'In Mahishadal and Tamluk the Government maintains the Ganguria and Balur, or the sea and large river external embankments ; and also those of the larger *Hasia* embankments, *i.e.* those of the salt and tidal *Khals* which are connected with, and dependent on, the external large embankment. The *zamindars* of these two important estates (Mahishadal and Tamluk) are bound to keep up the interior embankments, or *grambheris*. In Kutabpur, Chitwa, Kasijora, Mainachaura, Bagri, Narajol, and Shahpur, the Government constructs and maintains the river embankments, and charges the *zamindars* in rateable proportions with the cost, and which is added to the revenue they have to pay to Government. In Mandalghat, part of which is in Midnapur and part in Hugli District, Government constructs one mile of embankment, and the *zamindar* the next ; and so on, a mile each alternately. Thus, if Government spent £2000 in constructing good embankments, and the *zamindar* will not follow completely and uniformly the example which the system is intended to provide, all the Government money may be thrown away, and good embankments rendered useless by a single weak point in the part maintained by the

zamindar. Further, interlaced with Mandalghat is another *pargana* called Kalur, in which the *zamindars* as alone responsible for the maintenance of the embankments; and any neglect on their part may damage, more or less, the whole Mandalghat line of embankments.'

Such a system could only result in failure, and Government was forced to step in and take charge of the embankments, recovering a portion of the cost from the *zamindars*. The most important part of the embankment system of Midnapur are the large embankments in Hijili, along the sea-coast and the large rivers and tidal *khals*, maintained for the protection of the country from inundations of salt water from the Bay of Bengal. On this subject I extract the following from Mr. Bayley's Report (1851) :— 'Either Hijili should be efficiently protected, so that no remissions of revenue on account of inundation could become necessary, or the embankments should be abandoned, the *zamindars* receiving an allowance on that account, and having no claim to indulgences in the shape of remissions or suspensions of revenue. Under the present system, even if the line of embankments in a particular *pargana* has been generally constructed of sufficient section and in an efficient manner, if any one particular gap or breach is left neglected, the salt water comes in by that, and thus not only renders the vast sums spent on the other parts of the embankment so much money thrown away, but the injury done to the crops has to be met by remissions or suspensions of revenue; and if this indulgence is not granted, depopulation follows. There is no obstacle whatever to the perfect fertility of Hijili, if the sea embankments and the connecting embankments along the rivers and tidal *khals* are of sufficient uniform strength throughout. . . . With regard to the height to which the sea and tidal *khal* embankments should be constructed, my recommendation was that the former should be eighteen feet high, with corresponding crest and slopes. The river and tidal creek embankments should be equally strong at their point of junction with the sea embankments, and gradually diminish in height as they recede from the sea. Mr. Ricketts, in his Minute dated the 6th January 1851, proposed that the sea embankments should be 23 feet high, and Captain Spens

that they should be 15. The wave of the gale of April 1850 was 13 feet high ; and I saw, in Orissa Balishahi, a sea boat on the top of a 9-feet embankment, which was blown there by the gale of the 23d October 1851. . . . It will be a subject of well-merited regret if, for the sake of saving the cost of a extra two or three feet in the hight of the embankments, we expose the country to inundation, and the large sums of money necessary even for fifteen-feet embankments liable to waste. The *retirement* of some of the sea, and especially the tidal *khal*, embankments, as well as a great improvement, or rather renewal, of the sea embankments in Kalindi Balishahi and Birkul *parganas*, is imperatively required. The Government has ordered definitely, that during this working season (1851-52) *all* the sea embankments should be made 13 feet high, and with an 8-feet crest, and the tidal *khal* embankments three feet above the highest known flood level . . . But this order comes too late ; for Kalindi Balishahi, Kismat Pataspur, Dattakharui, and Naruamuta (all *parganas* under Government management), have suffered very much from this order not having been issued and acted up to some years ago. A glance at the *pargana* maps will show how they are liable to inundation from the Sarpai, Bagda, and Rasulpur rivers, while the embankments are so low as to be useless.

'I may mention in this place, that the improvement of the embankments involves sometimes absorption of lands, which at the time of the Settlement of 1844 were not interfered with by the then embankments. No cases for compensation for such lands have yet come before me for final adjustment : firstly, because the executive officer has nowhere completed his line of embankments, even to the height of thirteen feet sanctioned ; secondly, because the question of the eventual size of the embankments (which certainly in the seaboard *parganas* should not be less than eighteen feet) is still unsettled and before Government. The question, therefore, of the quantity of land required to be taken for earthwork, etc., cannot yet be determined. When the final size of the embankments is fixed, the land required will be ordered to be valued under Regulation I. of 1824, on the spot by the Deputy Collector and appraisers.

The system followed in the Embankment Department for procuring labour is this. The executive officer takes security from the *daroga* or overseer, and looks to him for the execution of the work requiring labourers. The *daroga* employs *dafadars* or foremen, to procure the necessary

**COST OF EMBANKMENTS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT FROM
1831-32 to 1850-51**

Years.	Government Embankment		Zamindari Embankment.		Total	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1831-32	20,891	4 11	2,496	6 1	23,387	11 0
1832-33	21,692	15 6	3,469	1 6	25,161	17 0
1833-34	16,553	7 5	504	19 5	17,058	6 10
1834-35	7,552	8 9	5,385	17 1	12,938	5 10
1835-36	16,281	6 10	2,478	15 4	18,760	2 2
1836-37	2,017	8 0	1,985	2 10	4,002	10 10
1837-38	10,911	18 10	2,679	19 5	13,591	18 3
1838-39	13,392	14 2	3,568	17 4	16,961	11 6
1839-40	7,669	12 1	2,850	1 1	10,519	13 2
1840-41	13,209	10 9	3,705	15 6	16,915	6 3
1841-42	9,278	4 3	40	13 5	9,318	17 8
1842-43	9,846	10 9	2,459	5 3	12,305	16 0
1843-44	11,511	8 1	2,890	18 7	14,402	6 8
1844-45	13,806	8 3	5,128	2 11	18,934	11 2
1845-46	10,901	19 8	2,640	19 0	13,542	18 8
1846-47	6,196	10 10	1,604	4 2	7,800	15 0
1847-48	7,219	7 8	1,144	8 6	8,363	16 2
1848-49	9,641	13 10	1,675	2 5	11,316	16 3
1849-50	9,554	7 8	3,053	18 6	12,608	6 2
1850-51	16,569	11 7	2,940	0 0	19,509	11 7
Total for 20 years	234,698	9 10	52,702	8 4	287,400	18 2

labour. A man working very hard makes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 2d. a day (from 4 to 5 pice) at the present rates, supposing no improper deductions are made from it. My own impression is, that if the provision of labour and work of maintaining the embankments were left to the Baruas or Village Heads, the work would be more profitable to Government, and more satisfactory to the labourers. Security should be taken from each Barua, and also from one Barua for another ; they should be paid by the Executive Engineer, or a European Sub-Assistant, receiving advances only to the extent of their security ; and also that they should have no claim to remission or suspension in case of injury to their cultivation by salt water'.

Since the date of Mr. Bayley's Report, the Midnapur Embankments have received the constant attention of Government, and large sums are annually expended in maintaining them in an efficient state of repair. Prefixed are

**COST OF EMBANKMENTS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT FROM
18571-58 to 1872-73**

Years.	Government Outlay.			Landholders Outlay.	Grand Total.
	Original Works.	Repairs.	Total		
	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
1857-58	2,602 12	10,872 2	13,474 14	3,418 8	16,893 2
1858-59	321 16	5,827 4	6,149 0	4,470 8	10,619 8
1859-60	1,878 6	5,319 16	7,198 2	5,365 8	12,563 10
1860-61	1,489 14	6,205 18	7,695 12	2,500 12	10,196 4
1861-62	1,337 6	9,760 10	11,097 16	2,913 0	14,010 16
1862-63	17,972 0	12,604 2	30,576 2	7,041 14	37,617 16
1863-64	13,797 16	13,893 2	27,690 18	4,428 14	32,119 12
1864-65	10,763 6	16,246 6	27,009 12	6,473 8	33,483 0
1865-66	13,944 12	18,482 12	32,427 4	4,327 2	36,754 6
1866-67	12,233 8	7,888 8	20,121 16	2,321 12	22,443 8
1867-68	7,081 12	8,643 4	15,724 16	3,068 0	18,792 16
1868-69	12,631 18	11,593 2	24,225 0	3,493 6	27,718 6
1869-70	15,188 10	11,722 8	26,910 18	4,576 12	31,487 10
1870-71	13,926 12	8,411 2	22,337 14	8,010 16	30,348 10
1871-72	12,105 2	9,842 14	21,947 16	3,925 10	25,873 6
1872-73	4,593 12	7,819 16	12,413 8	6,897 2	19,310 10
Total for 16 Years	141,868 2	165,132 6	307,000 8	73,231 12	380,232 0

two tables showing the cost of maintaining the embankments during 20 years under the Company, and 16 years under the Crown. The first table exhibits the amount expended by the Public Works Department on Government and *zamindari* embankments in Midnapur, from the year 1831-32 to 1850-51 inclusive. The money expended on the *zamindari* embankments does not form a final charge on Government, and, except in a few isolated cases in which the amount is remitted, the sum expended on this head of the account is realized from the landholders.

The figures in the first table are collated from Mr. H. V. Bayley's ms. Report on Midnapore. They show a total expense of maintaining the Government and *zamindari* embankments in Midnapur district, amounting to an average of £14,370 per annum, for the 20 years ending 1850-51, of which an average

of £11,735 per annum was expended on Government, and £2635 per annum on *zamindari* embankments. For the six years 1851-52 to 1856-57, I have been unable to obtain a return showing the expenditure defrayed by the state direct on the Midnapur embankments ; but a statement received from the Commissioner of the Division returns the expenditure contributed by the landholders on embankments for the six years at £23,218, or an average of £3869 per annum.

The expenditure of embankments has much increased of late years, as the second table, furnished to me by the Comptroller of Public Works Accounts, Bengal, shows. The records of that office do not go beyond 1857-58, and I have no means of filling in the hiatus from 1851-52 to 1856-57.

In these sixteen years, the total expenditure on the Midnapur embankments aggregated £380,232, or an average of £23,764 per annum, of which £19,187 per annum was the share contributed by Government, and £4577 by the landholders, or an average increase of nine thousand pounds a year over the expenditure incurred for the twenty years ending 1850-51.

Excluding the six years from 1851-52 to 1856-57, the total cost of the Midnapur embankments for thirty-six years, namely, from 1831-32 to 1850-51, and from 1857-58 to 1872-73, has been upwards of two-thirds of a million sterling, or £667,632, or an average of £18,545 per annum. Of this vast sum, more than half a million, or £541,698, equal to an average of £15,047 a year, has been expended by Government ; and £125,934, or an average of £3498 a year, by the landholders. The year in which the greatest expenditure occurred was in 1862-63, in which the Government outlay amounted to £30,576, and that of the landholders to £7041. In 1865-66 the Government expenditure was still greater, and amounted to £32,427 ; but it is probable that the high expenditure of this year is owing more to the fact that Government found it necessary to provide work for the people who were then suffering from famine, than from any other cause. In this year of distress the landholders' outlay fell to £4327, making up the total cost of embankments to £36754.

Last year (1873) the Government of Bengal found it necessary to introduce a Bill in the Local Legislature to

provide for the better construction, maintenance, and management of embankments and watercourses. The Act places the embankments under the charge of the Collector of the District and an Engineer, with carefully defined powers ; provides for the acquisition of lands required, the compensation to be awarded, the appointment of the cost of embankments between the Government and the *zamindars*, and the mode of recovery of sums due on this account. The Bill has now passed through the Council, and received the assent of the Viceroy on the 20th December 1873. Schedule D sets forth a list of all the embankments to be brought under the provisions of the Act ; and as the Embankment System of Midnapur forms so important a feature of the District, I reproduce the following list of the District Embankments, attached to the Bill, and published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, September 17, 1873 :—

PRINCIPAL EMBANKMENTS OF MIDNAPUR DISTRICT.

(1) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE SILAI RIVER FROM ISNAGAR TO KOLA—a continuous line of embankment, 3 miles 4780 feet, more or less, in length. It commences at a masonry pillar in the village of Isnagar in Bagri *pargana*, and terminates at a masonry pillar in the village of Kola in the same *pargana*.

(2) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE SILAI RIVER FROM CHHOTA RUPRAM TO NARUA—a continuous embankment, 4 miles 770 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar in the village of Chhota Rupram in Bagri *pargana* and terminates in the village of Narua in the same *pargana*.

(3) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE SILAI RIVER, FROM SRIRAMPUR TO GANCHIA—a continuous embankment, 7 miles 2686 feet in length. It commences at the village of Srirampur in Chandrakona *pargana* ; it terminates in the village of Ganchia in the same *pargana*.

(4) LEFT EMBANKMENT ON THE SILAI RIVER, FROM KARSİ TO KALAKURI—a continuous embankment, 6 miles 5265 feet in length. It commences in the village of Karsi, Bagri *pargana*, and terminates at the village of Kalakuri in the same *pargana*.

(5) LEFT EMBANKMENT ON THE SILAI RIVER, FROM BAGHPATA TO RADHACHAK—a continuous embankment, 20 miles 680 feet

in length. It commences in the village of Baghpata in Chandrakona *pargana*, and terminates in the village of Radhachak, Barda *pargana*.

(6) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE RUPNARAYAN RIVER—a continuous embankment, 29 miles 2373 feet in length. It commences 57 feet south-east from the Machnan masonry sluice on the right bank of the Durbachati *khal* in the village of Machnan, Mandalghat *pargana*, and terminates at the zero mile-post on the bank of the tidal canal, Reach I., in the village of Kamalpur, Mahishadal *pargana*.

(7) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE PAIRATUNGI KHAL—a continuous embankment, 4410 feet in length. It commences in the village of Pairatungi, Tamluk *pargana*, from the right embankment on the Rupnarayan, and terminates near a temple on the Tamluk road, in the village of Barpadubasan, Tamluk *pargana*.

(8) LEFT EMBANKMENT ON THE PAIRATUNGI KHAL—a continuous line of embankment, 4370 feet in length. It commences in the village of Pairatungi, Tamluk *pargana*, from the right embankment of the Rupnarayan, and terminates in the village of Barpadubasan in the same *pargana*.

(9) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE GANGAKHALI KHAL—a continuous embankment, 3 miles 3430 feet in length. It commences in the village of Sudhapur, Tamluk *pargana*, from the right embankment of the Rupnarayan, and terminates 675 feet east of the Raghunathpur masonry sluice in the village of Sayyidpur in the same *pargana*.

(10) LEFT EMBANKMENT ON THE GANGAKHALI KHAL—a continuous embankment, 3 miles 1670 feet in length. It commences in the village of Maisda, Tamluk *pargana*, from the right embankment of the Rupnarayan, and terminates 170 feet north-east of the Raghunathpur masonry sluice in the village of Raghunathpur in the same *pargana*.

(11) RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE SOADIGHI KHAL—a continuous embankment, 2 miles 3990 feet in length. It commences in the village of Soadighi, Tamluk *pargana*, and terminates in the village of Jasamnathpur in the same *pargana*.

(12) LEFT EMBANKMENT ON THE SOADIGHI KHAL—a continuous embankment, 2 miles 1690 feet in length. It commences in the

village of Soadighi, Tamluk *pargana*, from the right embankment of the Rupnarayan, and terminates in the village of Hogla in the same *pargana*.

(13)RIGHT EMBANKMENT ON THE DURBACHATI KHAL—a continuous embankment, 1 mile 3510 feet in length. It commences 550 feet north-north-east of the Bhuda Factory chimney in the village of Bhuda, Mandalghat *pargana*, and terminates 57 feet south-east of the Machnan masonry sluice in the village of Machnan in the same *pargana*.

(14)MOHANKHALI EMBANKMENT—a circuit embankment, 28 miles 3258 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar in the village of Kultigri, where the Mohankhali runs into the Rupnarayan river, and passing along the right bank of the Mohankhali, through the villages of Jalighanasyam, Sitapur, and Manu, to Basantpur, where the Mohankhali and Durbachati rivers bifurcate, thence skirting the left bank of the Durbachati river, it passes through the villages of Shahpur, Pasarpur, and Barmogria, to Kachara; thence skirting the right bank of the Rupnarayan, it passes through the villages of Dudhkaura and Baghchina, and terminates at the same masonry pillar which forms the starting-point.

(15)PANA CIRCUIT EMBANKMENT—a circuit embankment, 9 miles 3640 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar on the left bank of the Silai river, near a temple in the village of Bargobind, Barda *pargana*. It passes through the villages of Baramdi and Ranibazar on the left bank of the Silai river, and then along the right bank of the Kanta Khal, through the villages of Bhagadau, Parna, Baramdijhil, Tabli, and Dharmpur, and terminates at the same pillar which forms the starting-point.

(16)GHATAL EMBANKMENT—a circuit embankment, 10 miles 1850 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar on the left bank of the Silai river at its bifurcation with the Argara river, and passing along the left bank of the Silai river, and through the villages of Srirampur, Basudebpur, and Sinhpur, it skirts the right bank of the Argara river, passes through the villages of Ramchandrapur, Raghunathchak, and others, and terminates at the same pillar which forms the starting-point.

(17) **KHASBAR EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 5 miles 5240 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar at the point of bifurcation of the Jhumi and Amada *khal*s, in the village of Lalchak, Barda *pargana*, and passing along the right bank of the Jhumi *khal*, through the villages of Parbatichak, Prasadchak, and Jaibagh, and thence along the left bank of the Amada *khal*, through the villages of Khasbar, Sawai, and Lalchak, till it terminates at the same pillar which forms the starting-point.

(18) **CHITWA EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 45 miles 1420 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar at the junction of the Rupnarayan river and Mohankhali *khal* in the village of Mahishghata, Kharija Mandalghat *pargana*, and passing along the left bank of the Mohankhali *khal*, through the villages of Dakshinbar, Gaurichak, Gobindnagar, Basantpur, thence along the left bank of the Kasai river, through the villages of Kola, Mahespur, Gokulnagar, Suratpur, Raghunathpur, and Konnagar, to the junction of the Silai and Rupnarayan river at Pratappur, and thence along the right bank of the Rupnarayan river, through the villages of Harishpur, Jalkonaram, Ranichak, and Gopiganj, terminating at the same pillar which forms the starting-point.

(19) **DUSASPUR EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 18 miles 2350 feet in length. It commences from the right bank of the Kasai river, 700 feet from the Dusaspur sluice in the village of Dusaspur, Chitwa *pargana*, and passing along the right bank of the Kasai river, through the villages of Nabin Basudebpur, Kunjpur, Mahespur, Telondi, and Brikabhanupur; thence passing along the left bank of the Patua *khal*, through the villages of Fathipur, Gadaipur, and Dhamkhola, it terminates in the village of Kirttibaspur, Chitwa *pargana*.

(20) **NARAJOL EMBANKMENT**—an embankment 7 miles 1735 feet in length. It commences from the left bank of the Kasai river, in the village of Samat, Chitwa *pargana*, and passing along the left bank of the Kasai river to the village of Madanmohanpur, and thence along the right bank of the Silai river, through the village of Ramdebpur, it terminates in the village of Chandikhali in the same *pargana*.

(21)BRINDABANCHAK EMBANKMENT—an embankment 2 miles 800 feet in length. It commences in the village of Brindabanchak, Kharija Mandlghat *pargana*, and running along the right bank of the Durbachati *khal*, terminates in the same village whence it started.

(22)BIRKUL EMBANKMENT—a continuous line of embankment, 41 miles 155 feet in length. It commences in the village of Khadalgobra, Birkul *pargana*, and running generally parallel with the coast line of the Bay of Bengal, terminates on the Contai (Kanthi) and Kedgerree (Khejiri) road, on the right bank of the Rasulpur river in the village of Syamchak, Keoramal *pargana*.

(23)KEORAMAL AND MAJNAMUTA EMBANKMENT—a continuous line of embankment, 30 miles in length. It commences on the Contai (Kanthi) and Kedgerree (Khejiri) road, on the right bank of the Rasulpur river in the village of Syamchak, Keoramal *pargana*, and running along the right bank of the Rasulpur river as far as the Contai (Kanthi) and Tamluk road, and thence along the right bank of the Sarpai river, terminates in the village of Atlagari, Majnamuta *pargana*.

(24)SANBARIA EMBANKMENT—a circuit embankment on the right bank of the Rasulpur river, 2 miles 4868 feet in length. It commences and terminates at a masonry pillar in the village of Sanbaria, Bahirimuta *pargana*.

(25)MAJNAMUTA AND BHOGRAI EMBANKMENT—a continuous line of embankment, 30 miles in length. It commences in the village of Atlagari, Majnamuta *pargana*, and running along the left bank of the Sarpai river as far as the village of Kesurkund, on the Contai (Kanthi) and Midnapur road, and thence in a northerly direction to Chaumukh on the Bagda river, and thence along the right bank of the Balighai *khal* to the east of the Dhubda *jhil*, terminates on a sand ridge in the village of Madhabpur, Bhograi *pargana*.

(26)PICHABANI EMBANKMENT—a continuous line of embankment, $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length. It commences at the great sea dyke east of the Pichabani sluice on the left bank of the Pichabani *khal*, and running along the said bank as far as a masonry pillar in the village of Madhabpur, Bhograi *pargana*, and thence along the right bank, terminates at the great sea dyke west of the Pichabani sluice.

(27) **ASTHICHAK EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment on the right bank of the Bagda river, 3 miles 2528 feet in length. It commences and terminates at a masonry pillar in the village of Asthichak, Paharpur *pargana*.

(28) **SUJAMUTA AND JALAMUTA EMBANKMENT**—a continuous line of embankment, 95 miles in length. It commences in the village of Ramchak, Sujamuta, and running along the left bank of the Ikhtiarpur *khal* to its junction with the Madakhali *khal*, thence along the left bank of the Madakhali *khal* to the Chauddachuli Inspection Bungalow at the confluence of the Rasulpur river and the Kunjpur or Thalpati *khal*, thence running along the left bank of the Kunjpur or Thalpati *khal* to its embouchure in the Bay of Bengal, thence running parallel to the coast line as far as the mouth of the river Haldi, thence following the right bank of this river as far as the junction of the Kaliaghari and Kasai rivers, and lastly, running along the right bank of the Kaliaghari river, and terminating in the village of Nilkanthpur, Jalamuta *pargana*.

(29) **KHARAN EMBANKMENT**—a continuous line of embankment, 5 miles in length, along the right bank of the Kaliaghari river. It commences at a masonry pillar in the village of Kharan, Pataspur *pargana*, and terminates at another masonry pillar in the same village.

(30) **NARUAMUTA EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 34 miles 1000 feet in length. It commences near the Barju *ghat*, or landing place in the village of Barju, Naruamuta *pargana*, and after running along the right bank of the Madakhali *khal*, the left bank of the Bagda river, and the right bank of the Chakbhabani *khal*, terminates at the point where it starts from. This embankment passes through the villages of Barju, Simulbari, Dismila, Khamgara, Idalpur, Kalurathari, Lischintar, Udaipura, Koniabar, Bhastagara, Khala Kalkadari, Sundarpur, Malikpur, Ballabhpur, Sukakhola, Udaipur, Gopalpur, Bara Adapur, Tamlapura, Chakbata, Kalsai, Kulbaria, Chakmathuri, Chakhabani, Bhairabdari, South Chando, Mangalpur, Dakshindara, Partapdighi, Bamunbasan, Sitadighi, Krishnanagar, Panisuri, Sardabar, Mathura, Chakrasal, Khasura, Mangalchak, Tonabila, Arjun-nagar, Purulia, Mahesda, Malda, Barji ; and also through *parganas* Naruamuta, Kismat Pataspur, Kismat Dantun, Pratabhan, Pataspur, and Bhaitgarh.

(31) **MADAKHALI AND UDBADAL EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 11 miles 1541 feet in length. It commences at a masonry pillar at the junction of the Madakhali and Udbadal *khals* in the village of Naturia, Naruamuta *pargana* ; and after passing through the villages of Udbadal, Champainagar, Konasdighi, Nathara, Khatmari, Itabaria, Nandighi, Manikjor, Hasgoria, Basudebbaria, Patarbara, it terminates at the same pillar which forms the starting-point.

(32) **NARUAMUTA AND KOAL EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment 11 miles 1525 feet in length, lying between the Ikhtiarpur, Madakhali, and Udbadal *khals*. It commences from a masonry pillar at the junction of the Madakhali and Ikhtiarpur *khals*, in the village of Raghunathchak, Naruamuta *pargana*, and running along the left bank of the Madakhali *khal*, the left bank of the Udbadal *khal*, and the right bank of the Ikhtiarpur *khal*, it terminates at the same pillar which forms the starting-point. This embankment passes through the villages of Udbadal, Patna, Damodari, Padutardi, South Biada, Ichhapur, Panchgharia, Bhaupatinagar, Raghunathchak, Nandichak, Khorinet, Gobindpur, Jagamohan, Champainagar, Kanjadapur, and the *pargand* of Naruamuta.

(33) **ERANCH EMBANKMENT**—a continuous line of embankment, 3 miles 3255 feet in length. It commences in the village of Ramchak, Sujamuta *pargana*, and, running along the right bank of the Ikhtiarpur *khal*, terminates in the village of Radhapur, Eranch *pargana*.

(34) **PATASPUR EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 7 miles 2735 feet in length, between the Kaliaghai river and the Bagui *khal*. It commences in the village of Doropatna, Pataspur *pargana*, at the junction of the Kaliaghai river with the Bagui *khal*, and, passing through the villages of Gokulpur, Doropatna, and Golaghat, finally terminates at its original starting-point.

(35) **KASBA HIJILI EMBANKMENT**—a circuit embankment, 20 miles in length. It commences from a masonry pillar in the village of Gumgarh, Kasba Hijili *pargana*, on the south side of the junction of the Thalpati *khal* with the Rasulpur river. The embankment first runs along the left bank of the Rasulpur river to its confluence with the sea, then follows the

coast line to the embouchure of the Thalpati *khal* in the Bay of Bengal, and thence runs along the south bank of the Thalpati *khal* till it terminates at the same masonry pillar which forms the starting-point. It passes through the villages of Gorabar, Debichak, Dandchak, Katka, Syampur, Bagha, Padurbaria, Nenapata, Mahendranagar, Panchbaria, Osilchak, Honabaria, Kalagachhia, Orukbaria, Sahibchak, Bamunchak, Barabari, Phulbari, and Malichak.

(36) KASAI AND HALDI EMBANKMENT—a continuous line of embankment, 60 miles 4110 feet in length. It commences in the village of Bargoda, Tamluk *pargana*, on the left bank of the Kasai river, and runs along the left bank of the Kasai and Haldi rivers to the confluence of the latter with the river Hugli, and thence along the right bank of the Hugli and Rupnarayan rivers, till it terminates at a masonry pillar in the village of Banka about a quarter of a mile north of a Hindu temple, on the left bank of the Banka *khal*.

(37) KALIAGHAI AND KASAI EMBANKMENT—a circuit embankment, 12 miles 2550 feet in length, situated between the Kaliaghahi and Kasai rivers. It starts from the junction of these rivers, and, running along the left bank of the Kaliaghahi river and the right bank of the Kasai river, terminates at the same point as that from which it starts. It passes through the villages of Parso, Nonakhari, Lochanpur, Narkuldi, Sunabhahi, Asnan, Chandibaria, Machodal, Kholakhali, Kalkadari, Panchpukhuria, Krishnachak, and Salugaria, all in Tamluk *pargana*.

These thirty-seven lines of embankment cover a length of 601½ miles, and are all brought under Government management by the provisions of the Bengal Embankment Bill, which this year passed the Bengal Legislative Council (December 1873).

FOREIGN AND ABSENTEE PROPRIETORS.—No European landholders appear in Midnapur as registered proprietors on the Government rent-roll. There are European *patnidars* and great leaseholders, such as Messrs. Watson & Company, but they do not possess the *zamindari* or proprietary right in the lands they hold. The Collector in 1870 returned the estimated number of Muhammadan proprietors at 148, out of a total of 6358, paying an approximate Government revenue of £3199,

out of a total land revenue for the whole District of £202,070. According to these figures, the Musalmans do not hold anything like a proportionate share in the land to the Hindus. The Census of 1872 returned the Muhammadans of Midnapur at 6.2 per cent. of the District population ; while, according to the Collector's report of 1871, the Musalman landlords only number 2.3 per cent. of the landed proprietors, and their share of the Government land revenue is only 1.5 per cent. A considerable portion of the District, however, is owned by wealthy Hindu absentee landholders, the principal of whom are the Maharaja of Bardwan, Babu Hiralal Sil & Brothers of Calcutta, Babu Ghanesyam Mukharji of Calcutta, etc.

ROADS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.—In 1871 there were seventeen lines of road in Midnapur District, of which six were under the Public Works Department, and eleven under local management. The six Imperial lines of road are as follow :—(1) Road from Midnapur to Ulubaria, 50.4 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £2300. This is a section of the Great Trunk Road from Calcutta, and forms the highway for pilgrims from Bengal and Northern India to the great temple of Jagannath in the Puri District of Orissa. The bridges on the road were constructed at the expense of Raja Sukhmai, who bequeathed a sum of £15,000 for the purpose of facilitating the pilgrim route to Jagannath. Only 36 miles of the road from Midnapur to Ulubaria are actually within the limits of Midnapur, which District it leaves at Kailaghat, on the Rupnarayan river, whence it passes through Hugli District to Ulubaria on the Hugli river, and is continued on the opposite bank through the 24 Parganas to Calcutta, making a total length of 72 miles from Midnapur city. (2) Road from Midnapur to Rajgarh, and thence on to Jaleswar, in Balasor District; length, about 50 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £1360. This is the second portion of the great Jagannath road, and, like the first section, the cost of bridging it was met from the legacy bequeathed by Raja Sukhmai. (3) Road from Midnapur to Bankura, in Bankura District ; length throughout, 65 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £960. Of this road only 32 miles, or about one-half, are within Midnapur District. A few miles north of Garhbeta Subdivisional Station it leaves Midnapur,

and enters Bankura District. The road is an important one ; it runs over a hard dry country all the way, and can be maintained at a small expense. (4) Road from Midnapur to Kamarara ; length, 45 miles ; annual cost of maintenance, £200. (5) Road from Panchkura to Tamluk ; length, 18 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £200. This line branches off from the Midnapur and Ulubaria road at Panchkura. Mr. Bayley's Report states that it runs through very low country, and in 1852 it was described as in a very bad state during the rainy season, at which time also the navigation of the Rupnarayan, at the point where the road crosses that river, was rendered perilous. (6) From Balighai to Jaleswar, in Balasor District ; length, 24 miles. This is an unmetalled road, and only recently transferred to the Midnapur Division of the Public Works Department, from the Northern Cattack Division. Total length of Imperial roads, 252 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £5020. It must be remembered, however, that the whole length of these roads does not lie within Midnapur District. The Public Works Department circles are not always conterminous with the geographical limits of Districts.

The eleven principal roads under local management are the following :—(1) Road from Belda to Contai (Kanthi). This line branches off from the Great Trunk Road to Orissa at Belda, in Khatnagar Fiscal Division ; length, 35 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £88, 18s. 0d. This road was originally constructed as a post road only, but was subsequently raised and widened. (2) Road from Garhbeta Subdivisional Station to Ramgarh ; 26 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £55. (3) Road from Lodha to Bhimpur ; 31 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £151, 6s. 0d. (4) Road from Daijuri to Puribati ; 8 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £48, 12s. 0d. (5) Road from Chandrakona to Amlajura ; 16 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £72, 16s. 0d. (6) Road from Chandrakona to Goaltor ; 23 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £105, 14s. 0d. (7) Road from Midnapur to Khirpai, in Chandrakona Fiscal Division, and thence on to Bardwan ; length in Midnapur District, 21 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs,

£94, 16s. 0d. This is one of the most important local roads in the District, and is being metalled. (8) Road from Contai (Kanthi) to Tamluk ; 18 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £56, 16s. 0d. (9) A second line of road from Contai to Tamluk, 20 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £135, 18s. 0d. (10) Road from Contai to Ramnagar, 15 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £58. (11) Road from Kharagpur to Kasiari, 17 miles in length ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £67, 16s. 0d. Length of the above local roads, 230 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £935, 12s. 0d. Grand total of Imperial and the above local roads, 482 miles ; annual cost of maintenance and repairs, £5955, 12s. 0d.

Besides the foregoing, Mr. Bayley, in his ms Report (1852), mentions two other roads which are not specified in the Collector's Return to me in 1871. These are : (1) a road from Contai Subdivisional Station *via* Khejiri (Kedgerie) to Kukrahati, a distance of 48 miles, crossing the Haldi and Rasulpur rivers ; and (2) a road from Contai to Birkul *via* Ramnagar. Mr. Bayley states that this used to be a good road, but that it was much injured at the Birkul end, near the coast, by the storm and inundation of 1850. In 1852 it was serviceable only as far as Daulf, half-way between Contai and Chandpur.

All the roads, except those in the Jungle Mahals, are bridged at the smaller rivers, and have ferries at the larger ones. Fifty new bridges and culverts, chiefly for the roads in the Jungle Mahals, were in course of construction in 1872. The principal ferries are on the Kasai, Rupnarayan, Rasulpur, and Haldi rivers. Ferries are also maintained on the Subanrekha river near Mahapal, bordering on the western jungles, and on the Dolang Khal. No large markests have lately sprung up along the principal routes of traffic. Beside the roads and large rivers, the Midnapur High Level Canal furnishes a direct means of communication with Calcutta. It is intended both for navigation and irrigation, and when completed, which it is anticipated will be during the present year (1873), will be navigable throughout its entire length, from the Hugli river at Ulubaria to Midnapur town. There are no railways within Midnapur District.

MINERALS.—No mines are worked in Midnapur, but several stone quarries are situated in the vicinity of the station. These quarries are worked by the Public Works Department, and cover an area of about a square mile. The stone is that known as rock laterite, close-grained, hard and durable, and excellent of its kind. It is generally met with at a depth varying from two to four feet ; but an inferior description of stone is found on the surface in different parts of the District. Rubble laterite sells at about 7s. per hundred cubic feet ; rough-dressed stone at about £1, 3s. 0d., and ashlar at about £1, 12s. 0d. per hundred cubic feet. Gold dust is found in minute quantities in the river-beds, and the Census Report returns the number of gold-washers in Midnapur District at 21. Salt is plentiful in the tidal plains on the south and east of the District. The other mineral products are iron and soap-stone. No precious stones are found.

MANUFACTURERS.—Excellent mats are manufactured at Raghunathbari, Kasijora, and Narajol. Brass and copper utensils, such as cups, plates, cooking pots, etc., for the domestic use of Hindus, are manufactured in the town of Midnapur. Tasar silk is manufactured in the District on a small scale by the people. The processes are similar to those followed in the other districts of Lower Bengal. No steps have been taken to improve the ancient manufactures, or to introduce new ones, and the social position of the manufacturing classes is low. The Collector in 1871 states that they scarcely differ from the ordinary day-labourers, each family following the hereditary profession assigned to the caste to which it belongs. The manufacture of indigo and silk is chiefly conducted by means of hired labour. The principal indigo and silk factories belong to Messrs. Robert Watson & Co. ; the scale of wages varying from $1\frac{7}{8}$ d. to $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. a day. Sometimes the silk manufacture is carried on by piece-work ; that is to say, by paying a fixed sum for every pound of silk prepared from cocoons. The system of making advances for manufacturing purposes exists only among the silk and indigo workers. The factory pays a small sum to the labourers, and the latter engage to supply a certain quantity of silk or indigo at a fixed rate to the factory. As soon as the labourer has supplied silk or indigo of equal value to the amount advanced to him, a fresh advance is made, and so on.

The following table shows the number of skilled workers, mechanics, and artisans in Midnapur, according to the Census of 1872, under their respective trades, making a total of 50,211 men :—

MANUFACTURING CLASSES AND ARTISANS OF MIDNAPUR
DISTRICT, 1872.

Indigo manufac- turers, 6	Glassmaker, 1	Gilders, 4
Brick-masons, 1394	Combmakers, 74	Shell-carvers, 388
(<i>Rajmistris</i>)	Matmakers, 618	Cane-workers, 41
Brickmakers, 79	Basketmakers, 2122	Markers of looms, 26,276
Sawyers, 404	Whipmaker 1	Cotton-weavers, 26,76
Carpenters, 1621	Toymakers, 5	Weavers in wool, 34
Thatchers, 231	Hookah-pipe makers, 74	Weavers in coir, 16
Boat-builders, 173	Grindstone-makers, 207	Umbrella-makers, 2
Ship-carpenters, 5	Musical instru- ment makers 8	Gunnybag- makers, 192
Blacksmiths, 3235	Makers of lacquer- ed ware, 87	Net-makers, 44
Coppersmiths, 2927	Makers of garlands, 275	Blanket-makers, 879
Tinmen 2	Carvers, 2	Shoemakers, 886
Goldsmiths, 2883		Printer, 1
Gold-washers, 21		Bookbinders (<i>daftis</i>) 35
Potters, 4956		

THE SALT MANUFACTURE was, until within recent years, a Government monopoly, alike under the English and the Musalman administration. From the conquest of Hijili by Taj Khan Masnad Ali in 1505 A.D., this part of the country has been held under the direct management of the State, so as to afford facilities for the manufacture of salt. In 1852 it was estimated that three-fourths of the cultivators in Hijili stood in the double capacity of salt makers and cultivators. The salt lands are those portions which are exposed to the overflowing of the tides, usually called *chars*. They are strongly impregnated with saline particles, and are subdivided into *khalaris*, or working places. Mr. Grant's Report on the Revenues of Bengal, dated April 1786, and published in the Fifth Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the affairs of the East India company (London, 1812 ; Madras reprint, 1866), states that each *khalaria*, on an average, yielded 233 maunds (about 170½ hundredweights) of salt, requiring the labour of seven *malangis*, or salt manufacturers, who by an easy process of filtration, and by boiling the brine with firewood collected from the neighbouring jungles, completed their operations between

November and June before the setting in of the rains. The savings from these six months' wages, which were fixed by the Government with the *zamindars* at the rate of £2, 4s. 0d. for every hundred maunds of salt manufactured, enabled the salt-workers to retire to their homes for the remainder of the season to cultivate their arable (*madhuri*) lands, which they held either rent free, or under favourable terms, under the denomination of *chakran* or service lands, as a subsistence for the rest of the year. The number of *khalaris* in Midnapur under the Muhammadan rule was estimated at about four thousand ; and the Crown rent, at the rate of about £1, 2s. 0d. for each, yielded a revenue of about £4356. The nominal cost price of the salt at Hugli was £6 for every hundred maunds, and the difference between this price and the prime cost fell into the hands of ministers, favourite servants or merchants, who transported the salt to distant markets on their own account, and made large profits by this authorized but oppressive monopoly. The principal monopolist had the title of Fakhar-ul-tujjar (pride-of-merchants) or Malik-ul-tujjar (king-of-merchants). The salt was sold to the people at an average price of Rs. 2 a maund, or 5s. 5d. a cwt. (£20 per 100 maunds). This was the price during the first half of the seventeenth century. After the events of 1757, which established the British power in Bengal, the greater share of this lucrative trade fell into the hands of the English ; and Mr. J. Grant ; in his Report of 1786, estimated the quantity of salt annually manufactured in Hijili at 8½ lakhs of maunds, or about 31, 116 tons.

In the year 1781 the East India company established a Salt Department, and deprived the *zamindars* of the power of manufacturing salt on their estates. In return for the loss of profits, the *zamindars* received a certain fixed allowance (*malikana*), and a further allowance (*mushahara*) upon condition of their rendering aid in the manufacture of salt. They also obtained a grant of *Khalari* rents for the lands of which they were dispossessed when Government took upon itself the monopoly of salt manufacture. This monopoly continued in the hands of Government till about 1861, when the State relinquished the manufacture, leaving it to private parties, subject to the payment of a Salt Duty, now amounting

to Rs. 3. 4. 0. a maund, in Bengal, or 8s. 10d. a cwt. (1873). The manufacture, however, has greatly declined of late years, and is in the hands of a few contractors, who pay a Government duty according to the amount manufactured by them. The introduction of Liverpool salt, brought out at very low rates and often as ballast to Calcutta, has nearly driven the native manufacture out of the market. The Collector states that the abolition of the Government salt monopoly has seriously affected the material prosperity of the inhabitants of the southern portion of the District, who formerly lived by the manufacture. See detailed account of the manufacture of seaboard salt in my 'Orissa' (Index at end of vol. ii.).

TRADE AND COMMERCE.—The principal articles of trade in Midnapur District are rice, indigo, sugar, sugar-candy, hides, mats, silk cloth and *tasar*. The chief trading towns and villages are the town of Midnapur, Balighai, Panchkura, Tamluk, Chandrakona, Kukrahati, Ghatal, Kasiari, and Nawada. The commerce of the District is chiefly carried on by means of permanent markets, but a considerable local trade also takes place at fairs and religious gatherings. The principal of these religious-trading fairs are :—(1) One held at a place called Tulsichaura, on the bank of the Kaliaghai river, in honour of a celebrated spiritual preceptor named Gokulanand Goswami; (2) at Gopiballabhpur, in *pargana* Nayagaon; (3) at Mahishadal, on the occasion of the *Rath* festival of Jagannath, in the month of June; (4) at Egra, in February or March, in honour of Sambhunath (a name of Siva), lasts for three days; (5) at Andhiri, in the months of November or December, in honour of Ganganand Rai, an image of Siva; (6) at Jharipur, in honour of Sambhunath or Siva, and which lasts for eight days, in the month of April; (7) at Kutabpur, in honour of the goddess Brahmani, in April or May, and which lasts for eight days; (8) at Gopiballabhpur a fair is held in honour of Chaitanya, an image of whom is here worshipped with much pomp. A wealthy Raja of the District bestowed considerable landed estates for the worship of the image, and a large establishment of priests is maintained for the performance of the ceremonies. Besides these fairs, three or four religious-trading gatherings are held every year in Bagri

pargana, and are frequented by five or six thousand people for the purpose of worshipping an image of Krishna.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.—The chief articles exported from Midnapur District are paddy, silk, and sugar ; the principal imports being cotton-cloth and cotton-twist of European manufacture. The Collector reports that the value of the exports and imports is about equal.

CAPITAL AND INTEREST.—Besides the regular money-lenders and village shopkeepers who combine rice-dealing with usury, the landed proprietors also lay out their money at interest. In small loan transactions, where the borrower pawns some article, such as ornaments or household utensils, in security for the amount borrowed, the Collector states that the usual rate of interest is 24 per cent. per annum. In large loan transactions, where the lender is secured by a mortgage upon moveable property, the rate usually charged is 18 per cent. per annum ; in similar transactions, secured by a mortgage upon immoveable property such as houses or lands, the rate varies from 12 to 18 per cent. In petty agricultural advances to the cultivators upon a current account, interest is charged at the rate of from 25 to 50 per cent. It is not customary in Midnapur to make advances to the husbandmen upon the personal security of the borrower, with a lien upon the crops. The Collector states that 4 per cent. per annum would be considered a fair return for money invested in the purchase of an estate. No large native banking establishments exist in Midnapur District.

IMPORTED CAPITAL.—Messrs. Robert Watson & Company, who hold large estates in the northern part of the District, are the only Europeans carrying on manufactures by means of imported capital. They have large indigo and silk factories, but the Collector states that he has been unable to obtain the history or statistics of their undertaking.

INSTITUTIONS.—A public Library was established in the town of Midnapur, under the auspices of Mr. H. V. Bayley, Collector of the District, in 1852. It is supported by subscriptions from the residents, and by the proceeds derived from a tank attached to it, which is let in farm for the sum of £12, 12s. per annum. The building is neat, with a small garden on one side

and the tank on the other. In 1871 there were 67 subscribers, the aggregate payments amounting to £3, 16s. Od. per month. The number of volumes in the Library had increased from 1870 in 1853, to 3128 at the end of 1871, besides periodicals. No newspaper is published in the District; but there is a printing-press established in the town of Midnapur, under the management of the American Baptist missionaries. It prints in both the Bengali and English languages. The medical and educational institutions will be alluded to in a subsequent section of this Statistical Account.

INCOME OF THE DISTRICT.—The collector, in 1871, returned the estimated income of Midnapur District, as calculated for the purposes of the Income Tax Act of 1870-71,—that is to say, the total of all incomes over £50 a year,—at about £850,000. This sum would yield an income tax of £26,562 at the then rate of $3\frac{1}{8}$ th per cent. The net amount of tax actually realized in Midnapur District in 1870-71 was £25,544. In the following year, 1871-72, the rate of the tax was reduced to $1\frac{1}{24}$ th per cent, and the minimum of incomes liable to assessment raised to £75 per annum. The net amount of income tax realized in that year was £5649, 10s. Od.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—The numerous changes which have taken place in the jurisdiction of the District since it was constituted, render it impossible to present a perfectly exact comparison of the revenue and expenditure at different periods. In 1790, the earliest year of which records exist, the total net revenue of the District, exclusive of Hijili, which then formed a separate Collectorship, was returned at £160,316, and the total civil expenditure at £33,263. In 1821-22, the total net revenue of the District (still excluding Hijili) was returned at £160,846, and the total civil expenditure at £36,681. In 1839-40, shortly after the addition of Hijili, with its land revenue of about £35,193, to Midnapur District, the total net revenue was £219,472, and the expenditure £34,246. In 1850-51, after transfers, the revenue amounted to £194,887, and the expenditure to £28,879; in 1870-71 the total net revenue amounted to £262,578, and the expenditure to £53,777. During the period of 80 years, therefore, so far as can be ascertained, the results stand thus. In 1790, revenue of Midnapur, £160,316; of Hijili, £35,193; total, £195,509. In

1870, 'current land revenue demand' of the united District, £202, 070 ; total net revenue of united District, £262,578.

Since the addition of Hijili, the transfers to and from the District have not been very important, excepting some *parganas* in the south-west of the District which have been separated from Midnapur and annexed to the Orissa District of Balasor. I shall, therefore, confine my efforts to exhibit the comparative revenue and expenditure to the period *subsequent* to the amalgamation of Hijili, when the District had settled down pretty much to its present dimensions. The following three tables show the balance-sheet of Midnapur District for [On the next page-Ed.] the years 1839-40, 1850-51, and 1870-71. The figures, however, in the first two must be taken as only approximate estimates, as they disclose omissions on both sides of the account.

In the third return, I have taken the land revenue from a special return compiled for me by the Board of Revenue, showing the 'current collections' for the year. The 'current demand' amounted to £202,070. The figures under the heads of Police, Jails, Income Tax, and Post Office I have taken from the respective Departmental Reports for 1870-71. The remaining figures are furnished to me by the Collector.

THE LAND REVENUE is now nearly treble what it was in 1790. In the latter year it amounted to £80,791, exclusive of Hijili, which then formed a separate district ; in 1870-71 the current land revenue demand was £202,070. Subdivision of estates has gone on rapidly under British rule, and the number of individual landed proprietors is now more than six times what it was in 1790. In the latter year, moreover, the District was somewhat smaller than in 1870. It then contained a total of 999 estates, held by 1043 registered proprietors or coparceners, paying a total land revenue to Government of £80,791, 14s. 0d. ; average land revenue paid by each estate, £80,17s. 6d. ; average amount paid by each proprietor or coparcener, £77, 9s. 0d. In 1800, the number of separate estates had increased to 1888, and the registered proprietors or coparceners to 1907. Unfortunately, I cannot state the rental for this year, as it is not entered in the Quinquennial Register of the District for 1800. In 1850, the number of separate estates on the District rent-roll had further increased

BALANCE-SHEET OF MIDNAPUR DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1839-40.

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Land Revenue,	...	Revenue charges general,	...
Excise (exclusive of opium),	£197,017 4 0	Judicial charges general,	...
Profit and Loss,	4,153 4 0	Profit and Loss,	...
Stamps,	4,859 6 0	Stamps,	...
Police,	6,413 12 0	Pensions,	...
Interest on arrears of Revenue,	2,197 4 0		...
Opium,	4,343 8 0		...
	489 0 0		
Total Net Revenue,	£219,472 18 0	Total Net Expenditure,	£34,246 10 0

BALANCE-SHEET OF MIDNAPUR DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1850-51

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Land Revenue,	...	Revenue charges general,	...
Excise (including opium),	£179,565 10 0	Excise,	...
Profit and Loss,	7,005 4 0	Profit and Loss,	...
Stamps,	730 12 0	Judicial charges general,	...
Police,	5,142 14 0	Education,	...
Education,	2,265 8 0	Pensions,	...
	178 6 0	Charges general of the General Department, etc,	...
Total Net Revenue,	£194,887 14 0	Total Net Expenditure,	£28,879 4 0

BALANCE-SHEET OF MIDNAPUR DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1870-71.

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Land Revenue ('current collections')	... £198,272 16 0	Land Revenue,	£9,083 6 0
Stamps,	15,553 16 0	Stamps,	3 16 0
Excise,	12,637 8 0	Excise,	681 15 0
Education,	667 18 0	Educational (including Inspector's salary and	7,743 0 0
Police,	350 2 0	Establishment),	13,617 18 0
Post Office,	1,479 7 0	Police,	2,427 10 0
Income Tax,	25,544 6 0	Post Office,	1,324 1 0
Civil Court,	236 8 0	Income Tax,	8,372 18 0
Criminal Court,	1,848 11 0	Civil Court,	926 18 0
Pound Fees,	385 17 0	Criminal Court,	303 5 0
Ferry Fund,	2,067 19 0	Pound,	95 16 0
Zamindari dak,	1,280 8 0	Ferry,	1,334 1 0
Medical,	3 15 0	Zamindari dak,	1,196 12 0
Profits from Jail Manufacture,	256 9 0	Medical,	4,921 2 0
Registration,	1,395 4 0	Jail,	574 10 0
Town Tax,	253 14 0	Registration,	234 9 0
Miscellaneous,	345 0 0	Town Tax,	760 0 0
		District Share of Commissioner's Salary,...	176 16 0
		Miscellaneous,	
Total Net Revenue,	£262,578 18 0	Total Net Expenditure,	£53,777 13 0

to 2561, and the registered proprietors and coparceners to 4735, paying a total land revenue of £227,285, equal to an average payment of £88, 15s. 0d. by each estate or £48, 0s. 0d. by each individual proprietor or coparcener. In the year 1870-71, the number of estates amounted to 2808, and the registered proprietors and coparceners to 6358. The total land revenue demand, as returned to me by the Board of Revenue, for that year amounted to £202,070, and the 'current collections' to £198,272. This gives an average land revenue demand of £71, 19s. 2d. from each estate, and of £31, 15s. 7d. from each proprietor or coparcener. The Collector states that this general average fairly represents the state of landed property. It must be remembered, however, that the figures are exclusive of Chandrakona and Ghatal Fiscal Divisions, which, although now (1873) forming a portion of Midnapur District, were only transferred to it from Hugli in 1872.

LAND SETTLEMENT.—Midnapur District is partly held under the permanent, and partly under the temporarily settled system ; and I am indebted to the Collector for a special report on the subject, drawn up in reply to a set of inquiries which I issued in 1873. From it, and its enclosures, I derive the following facts. The temporarily settled estates are all due to exceptional circumstances. They extend over about one-eighth of the entire area of the District, and consist of four large parent estates comprising twenty-three entire *parganas*, principally situated in the southern and eastern parts of the District, besides some small detached areas scattered here and there. The four large parent estates are Jalamuta, Majnamuta, Pataspur, and Kalyanpur. At the time of the Permanent Settlement in 1793, the proprietors of the two estates of Jalamuta and Majnamuta refused to engage for their lands on any but temporary conditions, on account of their liability to inundations of salt water. The Settlement Officer, who is now engaged in forming a new settlement for the temporarily settled lands, states : 'In two such enormous estates it is quite possible that the calamities of one single year, and the consequent loss of crops, would put it out of their power to pay the Government demand, and their estates would be sold. Even with the present almost perfect system of embankments, affording protection not only from the sea, but from the

innumerable salt-water creeks intersecting the estates, it is in the highest degree improbable that the proprietors would be willing to take a Permanent Settlement of their estates.' There are, however, several small permanently settled estates in Hijili, and the Settlement Officer states that 'it is only because the Jalamuta and Majnamuta estates were so extensive that no Permanent Settlement could be made. A storm-wave sweeping over the country would leave not a vestige of any crop. The owner of an estate consisting of a single, or even of two or three *parganas*, might meet the losses of one year from the savings of other years. The proprietors of the Jalamuta and Majnamuta properties could not recover the loss, unless remissions of revenue were granted by the State,—a measure never taken with regard to a permanently settled estate.' Pataspur, the third large temporarily settled estate, is situated north of Hijili. It was held by the Marhattas up to 1804, when it was ceded to the British Government, and has never been permanently settled. The Settlement Officer states that it is in no way inferior to any of the adjoining permanently settled *parganas*. The fourth large temporarily settled estate is Kalyanpur, in the Jungle Mahals on the west of the District, consisting of *taufir* or excess lands,—that is to say, lands which by oversight escaped settlement, and when subsequently detected were liable to assessment, but have not been brought under the Permanent Settlement. The Settlement Officer mentions that this estate enjoys a greater degree of prosperity than the adjoining permanently settled *parganas*. Another temporarily settled estate is Balrampur *pargana*, situated about ten miles south of the town of Midnapur. This *pargana* was permanently settled in 1793, but was purchased by Government in 1838 at a sale for arrears of revenue. Since then it has been let in farm under different engagements, Government not choosing to manage it directly. The Settlement Officer states that the *pargana* is very backward as regards cultivation, and covered with jungle, but that it is not in a worse state than the permanently settled *parganas* adjacent to it.

MODE OF COLLECTING LAND REVENUE.—The following paragraphs, extracted from a Special Report from the Settlement Officer, furnished to me through the collector, illustrate the

methods adopted in Midnapur for the recovery of arrears of revenue :—“The land revenue of all permanently settled estates is paid into the Treasury by instalments at fixed dates. If any default is committed, the estate of the defaulter is put up for sale to the highest bidder, and the arrears are made good from the sum which it fetches. If the amount of the highest bid does not equal the arrears, the other property, real and personal, of the defaulter is liable to seizure and sale. It is only when there are no bidders that Government itself becomes the purchaser for a nominal sum of one rupee. As a rule, none but petty estates fall into arrear and are sold. Even these are few ; and the amount of the highest bid is almost always sufficient to meet the Government demand. I cannot recall to mind a single instance of late years where Government has become the purchaser of any but a very insignificant estate. I do not think any permanently settled estate was ever brought to the hammer for arrears of revenue caused by a deficiency of the rents collected, except when wasting by diluvion. When a permanently settled estate falls into arrears, it is almost always due to extravagance, improvidence, or want of management, on the part of the *zamindar*, and not because the yearly collections from the estate are unequal to the Government yearly demand.

‘In temporarily settled estates, default in payment of the Government revenue during the term of a settlement is rare. One notable instance of this, however, occurred in 1851, when the proprietors of the Jalamuta and Majnamuta estates fell into arrears, before more than fifteen years of the settlement had run, and the properties were taken under the direct management of Government. It is not the rule to sell a temporarily settled estate when the land revenue is in arrear, but for Government to take it under its own direct management, or to let it in farm to an outsider. It has always been recognised in this District that the proprietors of temporarily settled estates should be granted remissions or suspensions of land revenue in times of inundation, drought, and other calamities resulting in the loss of crops. The extent of the relief is regulated by local inquiry, and the proprietor is bound to allow the cultivators to share in it. Besides the instance alluded to above, I can recall to mind no other case where

remissions were granted, although they are frequently demanded. On the expiration of a settlement, and before a re-settlement, it is not unusual for a temporarily settled estate to be taken under direct management, owing to the refusal of the proprietor to agree to the terms proposed. An ascertained deficiency in the rents during this intermediate period would affect the Government demand, but such a deficiency seldom occurs. In all other respects, the time of payment and the amount of the land revenue in temporarily settled estates are as fixed as in permanently settled estates. When once the proprietor of an estate has agreed to the terms of a settlement, he is altogether responsible for the revenue, and rarely commits default.'

COST OF COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE.—I take the following sentences from the same Special Report by the Settlement Officer :—'It is not easy to institute any comparison between the cost of collection of the land revenue in permanently and in temporarily settled estates. The Government demand in permanently settled estates, which was fixed in 1793, was, I may say in every case, greatly below the present gross assets. If I do not mistake, in ascertaining the rental (*sadr jama*) for the Settlement of 1793, a deduction of ten per cent., and in some cases of twenty per cent., was made to the proprietors from the gross assets as *tahsilana*, or costs of collection. Whatever deductions were then made, they were calculated upon assets which have vastly increased at the present day. There is one estate in the District (Jhargaon) in which the Government demand is not more than £70 per annum. Whatever percentage may have been calculated as collection charges in 1793, at the present day it is found that the gross collections of the estate amount to more than £4000. The percentage, therefore, granted in 1793 as the expenses incurred in the collection and payment of £70 into the Government Treasury furnishes no index as to the landholder's present profits.' The Collector mentions, however, that this is one of the jungle estates belonging to a *zamindar* who calls himself a Raja, and whose ancestors were semi-independent chiefs. The payment was at first more of the character of tribute than of land revenue. The Settlement Officer proceeds : 'In an adjoining estate which is temporarily settled, the cost

of collection in 1839 was estimated to be about fifteen per cent. on a gross revenue of £660. The Government revenue amounted to £325, 18s., after deducting the *zamindar's* proprietary allowance and collection expenses. During the course of the current year (1873), I have ascertained that the gross revenue of the estate is rather over than below £1335. My re-settlement operations in evolving this increased rental cost the Government about £650. Excluding *malikana* or proprietary allowance, as well as the collection charges, from £1335, the Government demand will amount to about £854, or £528, 2s. more than has hitherto been paid. In estimating the charges for the collection of this sum over a period of thirty years, which will most probably be the term of re-settlement, I may fairly add the initial cost of re-settlement to the yearly recurring charge of fifteen per cent., and this will make a total of about £8663 as expenses incurred in the collection of £25,620 for the next thirty years. That is to say, that within the next thirty years £4700 will be spent for the collection of an enhancement to the Government demand which amounts to £12,960 after deducting proprietary allowance. In no temporarily settled estate is the total cost of collection estimated to exceed twenty per cent. The actual cost to Government for collection of the land revenue in permanently settled estates is that of the usual establishment salary added to the original cost of making the Permanent Settlement of 1793 ; in temporarily settled estates, the cost to Government is that of the usual establishment salary plus the cost of the original settlement and of successive re-settlements.' The Settlement Officer states that the higher cost of collection charges in temporarily settled estates is more than counterbalanced by the enhanced revenue which Government derives from these estates at every fresh settlement.

ARREARS OF LAND REVENUE.—The Collector has furnished me with the following table, showing the total land revenue demand, and total arrears which have accrued, in the whole District and in the temporarily settlement estates respectively, for the ten years ending 1871-72. The proportion of arrears accruing from permanently settled estates is much less than that accruing from those under temporary settlement. The aggregate Government demand from temporarily settled

estates includes demands for temporarily settled *chars*, resumed rent-free lands under settlement, abandoned salt lands farmed out pending settlement, etc., and it is mainly with regard to these that the arrears occur. During the ten years 1862-63 to 1871-72, the aggregate land revenue demand from the whole District amounted to £2,033,274, the total arrears during that period to £108,390, 10s. 0d., or 5.33 per cent. of the demand. In the temporarily settled estates, the land revenue demand during the same period aggregated £242,156, 14s. 0d., and the arrears £51,243, 15s. 0d., or 21.16 per cent of the land revenue demand in those estates, thus :—

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL LAND REVENUE DEMAND
AND TOTAL ARREARS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT AND IN THE
TEMPORARILY SETTLED ESTATES OF THE DISTRICT
RESPECTIVELY, FROM 1862-63 TO 1871-72.

Years	Total land Revenue Demand			Total Arrears.			Total land Revenue Demand			Total Arrears		
	For the whole District						For the Temporarily Settled Estates only					
	£	s	d.	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
1862-63	202,007	12	0	8,588	4	0	24,002	15	0	2,727	6	2
1863-64	203,596	18	0	9,029	4	0	24,002	15	0	3,469	19	11
1864-65	204,258	16	0	39,299	16	0	24,002	15	0	17,117	18	8
1865-66	201,926	0	0	25,271	4	0	24,002	15	0	17,291	6	5
1866-67	108,624	4	0	5,172	4	0	20,238	9	0	803	9	7
1867-68	206,876	0	0	4,841	8	0	29,340	7	0	1,803	2	7
1868-69	202,375	4	0	4,172	0	0	24,116	1	9	2,947	8	5
1869-70	203,487	10	0	1,142	4	0	23,999	9	9	.		
1870-71	204,295	0	0	3,762	14	0	23,999	9	0	2,911	6	6
1871-72	205,354	14	0	7,111	12	0	24,451	17	3	2,171	16	9
Total,	2,033,274	18	0	108,390	10	0	242,156	13	9	51,243	15	0

It will be observed that the Land Revenue for 1871-72 given in this table slightly exceeds that which I have given on a previous page. The explanation is, that the amount shown in this table represents the 'total land revenue demand,' whilst that given in treating of the land tax is the 'current demand' only.

OPERATION OF THE LAND LAW.—The number of rent cases instituted under the provision of Act X. of 1859—the Land

Law of Bengal—is returned by the Collector as follows :— In 1861-62, 3261 original suits were instituted, besides 797 miscellaneous applications ; in 1862-63, there were 4764 original suits, besides 1443 miscellaneous applications ; in 1866-67 (after the famine), the number of original rent suits had increased to 6476, and the miscellaneous applications to 3185. In 1868-69, the number of suits instituted was 4831, besides 3985 miscellaneous applications.

PROTECTION TO PERSON AND PROPERTY has been rendered more exact of late years. In 1805 there were only two Magisterial Courts in the whole District ; in 1850 there were six Magisterial and seven Revenue Courts ; in 1862, ten Magisterial and eleven Revenue Courts ; in 1869, eleven Magisterial and eleven Revenue Courts ; and in 1870-71, twelve Magisterial and twelve Revenue Courts. The number of Civil Courts is returned at nine in 1860-61, and eight in 1870-71. The number of Covenanted English officers at work in the District throughout the year was two in 1805, five in 1850, five in 1860-61, and six in 1870-71.

POLICE PROTECTION has steadily increased. During the first part of the century a regiment was stationed in the District, but no records exist showing the strength and cost of the police. In 1860, the military force had given way to a battalion of police, besides 12,361 village watchmen. The present police force of Midnapur District consists of the regular police, a municipal police for the protection of the towns, and a village watch or rural police.

THE REGULAR POLICE or constabulary force stood thus at the end of 1871 :—3 superior European officers, comprising a District Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents, maintained at a total salary of £1800 ; five subordinate officers on a salary of upwards of £120 per annum, and 139 officers on less than £120 a year,—maintained at a total cost of £4878, or an average pay for each subordinate officer of £33, 17s. 6d. per annum ; 696 foot and 6 water constables, maintained at a total cost of £5486, 8s., or an average pay of £7, 16s. 3d. per annum for each man. The other expenses connected with the District Police are :— A sum of £170 allowed as travelling expenses for the Superintendent and

Assistant Superintendents, £309, 16s. 0d. for pay and travelling allowances of their establishments, and £973, 14s. 0d. for contingencies, bringing up the total cost of the regular police of the District to £13,617, 18s. 0d. The Census Report of 1872 returns the area of Midnapur District at 5082 square miles, and the population at 2,540,963 souls. According to these figures, the total strength of the regular police force is one man to every 5.98 square miles of the District area, or one man to every 2992 of the population. The cost of maintaining them is equal to £2,13s. 7d. per square mile of area, or a fraction over 1¼d. per head of the population.

THE MUNICIPAL POLICE is a small force maintained in the large towns. At the end of 1871, it consisted of 5 officers and 95 men, maintained at a total cost of £665, 12s 0d., defrayed by means of rates levied from the householders and traders living or carrying on business within the municipal limits. In 1871, there were only two municipalities in Midnapur District—Midnapur town itself, and the Subdivisional town of Tamluk. The Census Report of 1872 returned the population of these two towns at 37,340. The strength of the municipal police, as compared with the town population, therefore, is one man to every 373 souls, maintained at a cost of 4¼d. per head of the town population. The two other municipal towns, Chandrakona and Ghatal, were only transferred to Midnapur in June 1872.

THE RURAL POLICE consists of two distinct bodies, the *paiks* and the *Chaukidars*. The *zamindars* in olden times retained large bands of *paiks* for the purposes of aggression or defence. Mr. D. J. M. Neile, in his Report on the Rural Police of Midnapur, dated May 1866, thus describes the manner in which these men were employed at the time when the District first came into our hands :— "Throughout the western and northern parts of the District, the *zamindars* lived in their *garhs* or forts, and kept up large bands of armed retainers. These bands were composed of horsemen (*sawars*) and footmen (*paiks*), and were employed, sometimes in fighting the Marhattas or resisting a raid of Chuars from the western hills, sometimes in plundering a neighbouring estate, and sometimes in opposing by force the demand of the Mughul Government for tribute. They were also employed in carrying on the rude

system of internal police administration which the *zamindars* maintained within their several estates ; and throughout a large portion of the District there seems to have been no other police whatever. They were maintained by grants of *jagir* land, some at low quit-rents, others free of all rent except that represented by the service rendered by them to the *zamindars*. In a letter from the Magistrate of Midnapur to the Government, dated 11th January 1793, the extent of each of these *jagirs* is stated to have been from two to thirteen acres. But an old record now in the Midnapur Collectorate contains a list of *paiks* in Midnapur *pargana* some of whom are entered as each in possession of from 65 to 130 acres of service land. These *paikan jagir* lands are most frequently met with in the northern and western tracts, particularly in *parganas* Midnapur, Manohargarh, Bhanjbhum, Bagri and Brahmanbhum. Throughout the southern and eastern tracts of the District, very few *paiks* seem to have been entertained. The relative positions of the Government, the *zamindars*, and *paiks* are defined as follow :—The *zamindar* is responsible to Government for the efficient service of *paiks*. He is to make appointments of *paiks*, giving preference to the heirs of old incumbents if they are qualified for the duty, and to dismiss them for incompetence or misconduct, and to make over their lands to others. The *paiks*, on their part, are responsible to the *zamindars* ; but the *zamindars* are responsible to Government for keeping them in a state of efficiency.’

The second branch of the rural police of Midnapur is the ordinary village watchman, or *chaukidar*, common throughout Bengal, who is principally met with in the southern and eastern tracts of the District. Mr. M ‘Neile, in his Report on the Rural Police of Midnapur, thus speaks of this force :—‘In the early correspondence there is no allusion’ to any establishment of village watchmen, properly so called, in Midnapur. Where the *paiks* were entertained in large numbers, they very probably supplied the place of ordinary watchmen. In some *parganas* there would appear to have been no residents except the *paiks*, who lived at outposts scattered through the jungle. And at the present day (1866), the Garhbeta, Bhimpur, Kespur, Salbani, and Gopiballabhpur *thanas* are almost destitute of any village watchmen other

than *paiks*. Nevertheless there is distributed, principally over the southern and eastern parts of the District, a numerous body of village *chaukidars*. Now, if these men were remunerated by assignments of land, no doubt could exist of their belonging to an institution of immemorial origin, probably coeval with the first occupation of the country. But with a very few exceptions, they are maintained entirely by the contributions in cash and grain of their fellow-villagers, although throughout Orissa, upon the annexation of the province by the British, the village watchmen were universally found in possession of service land. The inference seems to be, that the existing *chaukidars* belong to an establishment of modern date, the creation of the District Magistrates since the commencement of the century. But evidence has not come to light to prove the fact. Not only in the correspondence relative to the great police changes of 1793, but in several reports connected with the Midnapur police, of various dates from 1812 to 1819, the period during which the *chaukidari* establishments in the eastern Districts were for the most part introduced, no mention is made of any police in Midnapur except the *thana* police and the *paiks*'.

In 1866, Mr. M 'Neile returned the number of rural police as follows :—*Chaukidars*, 6267, of whom 674 were maintained by grants of service land, 446 maintained by the *zamindars*, 4365 by the villagers, and 782 by Government ; *paiks*, 6094, all in occupation of lands under a service tenure, which they held either rent-free or at a low quit-rent ; total, 12,361. In 1871, the Inspector-General of Police returned the village police in Midnapur, without distinguishing between *paiks* and *chaukidars*, at 10,015, maintained by grants of land and contributions from the people, at an estimated total cost, including both sources, of £14,021 per annum. This would give an average yearly income of £1, 8s. 0d. per man ; but the village watch levy various perquisites from the hamlets to which they are attached. Each village watchman or rural policeman has, on an average, charge of 23 houses.

Including the regular District Police, the Municipal or Town Police, and the Rural Police, the machinery for protecting person and property in Midnapur consisted in 1871

of a force of 10,964 officers and men, equal to an average of one man to every .46 of a square mile as compared with the area, or one man to every 231 souls as compared with the population. The aggregate cost of this force in 1871 was £28,304, 10s. 0d., equal to a charge of £5, 11s. 4d. per square mile, or 2 $\frac{8}{10}$ d. per head of the population. For police purposes, Midnapur is divided into 25 police circles or *thanas* :—as under (1) In the Headquarters Subdivision—Midnapur, Narayangarh, Dantun, Gopiballabhpur, Jhargaon, Bhimpur, Salbani, Kespur, Daspur, Debra, and Sabang. (2) In the Tamluk Subdivision—Tamluk, Panchkura, Maslandpur, Sutahata, and Nandigaon. (3) In the Contai (Kanthi) Subdivision—Contai, Raghunathpur, Egra, Khejiri (Kedgerree), Pataspur, and Bhagwanpur. (4) In Garhbeta subdivision—Garhbeta, Chandrakona, and Ghatal.

WORKING OF THE POLICE.—During the year 1871, the police conducted 2316 ‘cognisable’ cases, the percentage of final convictions to persons brought to trial being 58.0 per cent. ; and 3807 ‘noncognisable’ cases, the proportion of final convictions to prisoners brought to trial being 55.2 per cent. The total number of both cognisable and non-cognisable cases in 1871 was 6123, the percentage of final convictions being 56.4 per cent. The following are the principal cases of serious crime which occurred in Midnapur during the years 1870 and 1871 :— In 1870, 11 cases of murder were reported, of which detection followed in 5, or 45.5 per cent. ; in 1871, the number of murder cases was 15, of which convictions were obtained in 8, or 53 per cent. In 1870, 23 cases of *dakaiti* or gang robbery were reported, of which detection followed in 13, or 56.5 per cent. In one of these cases, the tenants of an estate which had been sold, owing to the former owner’s extravagance, to the Raja of Bardwan, set their late landlord on an elephant, and attacked the Raja’s *kachari*, or court, and plundered it of £1398, of which only £183, 10s. 0d. were recovered. Fifty-nine men were arrested, of whom 47 were committed for trial, and 36 finally convicted at the Sessions Court. In 1871, 21 cases of *dakaiti* occurred, of which conviction followed in 10, or 47 per cent. With regard to this class of crime. the Inspector-General of Police, in his Report for 1871, states that, although *dakaitis* still rank high in Midnapur, the number is nothing

like what it was in former years. In 1870, the number of robberies was returned at 5 ; conviction followed in 4, or 80 per cent. Eleven cases of this class of crime were returned in 1871, but the Inspector-General's Return does not give the number or proportion of convictions. The District ranks rather high in the percentage of acquittals in cases tried at the Sessions Court ; but the percentage is not nearly so large as in any of the Districts of the Presidency Division on the opposite side of the Hugli, and where the jury system is in operation. Out of a total of 207 cases tried at the Sessions Court of Midnapur, acquittals followed in 89, or 43 per cent. The number of salt-smuggling cases shows a considerable increase in 1871 over that of the previous year. In 1870, 130 cases were reported, in which 376 persons were arrested, and 307 finally convicted ; the quantity of salt confiscated was about twenty-five hundredweights, and the amount of fines realized, £216, 15s. 0d. In 1871, the number of reported cases had increased to 239, in which 553 persons were arrested, and 484 were finally convicted ; the quantity of salt confiscated was about four and three-quarter tons, and the fines realized, £496, 15s. 0d. The Inspector-General of Police, in his Report for 1871, states that the increase in that year is attributed to the successful working of a special body of police told off for preventive duty during the salt-manufacturing season, in the Subdivisions of Tamluk and Contai.

JAIL STATISTICS.—Besides the central jail in the town of Midnapur, there are four jails in Midnapur District for local prisoners, viz. the principal jail at the Civil Station of Midnapur, and the lock-ups at the Subdivisional towns of Tamluk, Contai (Kanthi), and Garhbeta. The following are the statistics of the jail population of Midnapur for the years 1857-58, 1860-61, and 1870. The figures for the two former years must be received with caution, and looked upon as only approximately correct. Owing to defects in the form of the returns from which the figures have been collated, and which cannot now be remedied, in some cases the same prisoners are counted two and three times over ; prisoners transferred to the District jail from the Subdivisional lock-ups being returned in both statements, without allowance being made for the

transfer. Under-trial prisoners at the end of the previous year, but who were subsequently convicted during the year to which the figures refer, are also returned under both heads. Since 1870, however, an improved form of preparing the returns has been introduced, and all such transfers have been duly allowed for. The statistics for that year may be accepted as correct.

In the year 1857-58, the first year for which materials are available, the daily average number of prisoners in the Midnapur jail and Subdivisional lock-ups was 708 ; the total number of criminal, civil, and under-trial prisoners admitted during the year being 1236. The Discharges were as follow :— Transferred, 207 ; released, 1642 ; escaped, 14 ; died, 188 ; executed, 4 : total discharged, 2055. These figures are given in a special return furnished to me by the Inspector-General of Jails. The records do not enable me to explain why the number of prisoners discharged from jail in 1857-58 is so much in excess of the total admissions of the year, or to reconcile the apparent discrepancy. In 1860-61, the jail returns show a daily average prison population of 656, the total number of prisoners admitted during the year being 1834. The discharges were—transferred, 342 ; released, 1554 ; died, 163 ; escaped, 3 ; executed, 2 : total discharged, 2064. In 1870, the daily average jail population was 1096, the total number of prisoners admitted during the year being 1815. The discharges were—transferred, 142 ; released, 1560 ; escaped, 16 ; died, 50 ; executed, 3 : total discharges, 1771. The average term of residence of each prisoner in jail was 401 days.

The sanitary condition of the Midnapur jail has greatly improved of late years. In 1857-58, the percentage of prisoners admitted to hospital amounted to 208.47, and the deaths to no less than 26.55 per cent. of the mean jail population. In 1860-61, the percentage of admissions to hospital was as high as 397.40 per cent., and the death-rate 24.84 per cent. of the average jail population. In 1870, the admissions into hospital had fallen to 81.93 per cent., and the death-rate to 4.56 per cent. of the average prison population. In the previous year, 1869, the death-rate was only 2.75 per cent. The Inspector-General of Jails, in his Report for 1870, states

that the increase of mortality in 1870 appears to have been due in a great measure to the prevalence of lung diseases towards the close of the year. Excluding phthisis, there were 79 cases of this nature, with 9 deaths; from phthisis there were 3 deaths,—making 12 deaths in all from such affections. Pneumonia was also very prevalent among the outside population. A large number of deaths from cholera tended further to increase the mortality rate, and there were six deaths from dysentery. The prevailing diseases were fever,—of which there were 249 cases,—dysentery, pneumonia, and anæmia.

COST OF JAIL MAINTENANCE.—The average cost of maintenance per prisoner in Midnapur jail, including rations, establishment, hospital charges, clothing, contingencies, and all other expenses except the prison police guard, is returned as follows :—In 1854-55 it was £5, 0s. 6½d. per head; in 1857-58 it was £3, 16s. 3½d.; in 1860-61, £3, 19s. 10 ½d.; and in 1870-71, £3, 16s. 11d. The cost of the jail police guard in 1870 amounted to an average of 19s. 9½d. per head, making a gross charge to Government of £4, 16s. 8½d. per prisoner. The Inspector-General of Jails, in his Report for 1870, returns the total cost of the Midnapur jail, including police guard, but excluding cost of alterations and repairs, at £4921, 3s. 2d. Excluding cost of police guard, which is included in the general police budget of the District, the cost of the jail amounted to £3909, 7s. 0d. The jail manufactures and other work performed by the hard-labour prisoners contribute but little towards the expense of the jails. In 1854-55, the receipts arising from the sale of prison manufactures, and the value of stock remaining on hand, amounted to £473, 5s. 11d., and the charges to £250, showing an excess of receipts over charges of £223, 5s. 11d., equal to an average earning of £1, 14s. 4d. by each prisoner employed in manufactures. In 1857-58, the receipts from sale of manufactures, and the value of stock left in hand at the end of the year, amounted to £1104, 2s. 0d., and the charges to £749, 17s. 3d., leaving an excess of receipts over charges of £354, 4s. 9d.; average earning by each prisoner employed on manufactures, £1, 6s. 1d. In 1860-61, the receipts from jail manufactures amounted to £1428, 8s. 0d., and the charges connected with them to £722, 5s. 3d.; excess of

receipts over charges, £706, 2s. 9d. ; average earning by each prisoner employed on manufactures, £3, 3s. 7½d. In 1870, the credits arising from jail manufactures amounted to £1414, 4s. 9d., and the debits to £1157, 15s. 2d. ; excess of credits over debits or profit, £256, 9s. 7d. ; average earning by each prisoner employed on manufactures, £1, 7s. 1½d. In the previous year, 1869, the manufacturing operations in connection with the jail were carried on at a loss. Of the 189 prisoners employed in manufactures or remunerative labour in Midnapur jail in 1870, 31 were employed in gunny-weaving ; 85 in gardening ; 26 in cloth weaving ; 4 in bamboo, rattan, or reed work ; 20 in brick-making ; 17.50 in oil-making ; 3 in flour-grinding ; 1 as a carpenter ; 2 in iron work ; 6 in tailoring ; 9 in grinding pulses ; and 4.30 in other manufactures : total, 189.

The town of Midnapur has also been chosen as the site of a central jail, for long-term prisoners from all parts of the Bardwan Division, and from neighbouring Districts. This central jail is still (1873) in course of building, but has during the past two years been utilized for the residence of the convicts engaged on its construction. As the central and district jails are occupied to a certain extent by different classes of prisoners, I have thought it desirable, in amplification of the above figures, to append the following statistics, taken from the Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Jails for 1872. In that year the average number of prisoners in the central jail was 753, and in the district jail and lock-ups 469. The total number of prisoners admitted into the central jail was 1370, all of whom were transferred from other jails ; and into the district jail and lock-ups, 2640. The discharges were— from the central jail, transferred 302, released 270, escaped 1, died 67, executed 0 ; total of discharged from all causes, 640 : from the district jail and lock-ups, transferred 750, released 1428, escaped 1, executed 2, died 40 ; total discharges, 2221. The sanitary condition of both these jails during the year under notice was not good. The number of admissions into hospital of the two jails was 91.51 of the average strength of the prisoners ; the deaths amounting to no less than 9.96 per cent. of the mean jail population. This high rate of mortality is attributed by the Inspector-General to the exposure of the

labouring convicts in the quarry works, whence materials were being obtained for the completion of the new central jail. These quarry works were discontinued, and for this as well as economical reasons, it was determined to carry on the jail with brick instead of laterite. Dysentery was the disease that proved most fatal, and the deaths from cholera during the year were *nil*. The average cost of maintenance per prisoner in the central jail, including all ordinary expenses except the police guard, was £4, 1s. 6d. ; and in the district jail, £3, 12s. 1½d. The cost of the police guard in the central jail amounted to 9s. 9d. per head, making a gross charge to Government of £4, 11s. 3d. per prisoner ; and in the district jail to 15s. 6d. per head, making a gross charge of £4, 7s. 7½d. The total cost of the central jail, excluding the cost of police guard, which is included in the general budget of the District, is returned at £3928, 15s. ; and of the district jail, at £1479, 2s. 6d. There was not much improvement this year in the results derived from the jail manufactures and other work performed by the hard-labour prisoners. In the central jail the greater part of the convicts, viz. 430, were employed on public works, which term in this case means quarrying and other operations subsidiary to the building of their own jail. The estimated value of the work thus done in the whole year amounted to £2235, and the estimated annual earnings of each prisoner thus employed to £6. No prisoners in this jail are employed on remunerative manufactures. In the district jail, the total credits arising from jail manufacturers amounted to £699, 3s. 7½d., and the total debits to £495, 5s. 0d. ; thus leaving an excess of credits over debits or profit of £203, 18s. 7½d. ; average earning of each prisoner thus employed, £2, 7s. 1½d. The Inspector-General, however, in his Report, throws doubt upon the accuracy of these latter figures, as including as undue proportion of manufactured goods left unsold at the end of the year. He comes to the conclusion, from a comparison of the amount expended on the manufacture department with the total of cash remitted to the Treasury, that there was an actual cash loss during the year of £260, 4s. 7½d. Of the 142 prisoners employed in remunerative labour in the district jail, 49 were engaged in cloth-weaving, 45 in gunny-weaving, 35 in gardening, and 13 in oilmaking. The ultimate relation

between these two jails does not seem to have been yet permanently established. The majority of the sick in the central jail were during the year removed into the hospital of the district jail ; and in point of fact the two jails have been regarded during the past year (1872) as one ; prisoners having been freely transferred, without reference to the locality of their crimes, from one to the other, from considerations of health and of convenience to the Public Works Department. Some account of the education attempted in these two jails, which is described as 'very successful,' will be found later on the this volume, p. 185.

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.—Education has rapidly diffused itself in Midnapur District within the last fifteen years ; the number of Government and Aided Schools having increased from 14 in 1856-57, to 223 in 1870-71, and the total number of pupils from 1340 to 8125 in the same period. This is altogether distinct from 1732 private and unaided schools returned by the Inspector of Schools in 1871, attended by an estimated number of 19,413 pupils. The following comparative table, compiled from the Reports of the Director of Public Instruction for 1856-57, 1860-60, and 1870-71, exhibit the number of Government and Aided Schools in the District at each of these years, the number of pupils attending them, the cost of education to Government, and the amount defrayed by fees or from private sources. The greatly increased proportion of the cost of education borne by private contributions, which has risen from £459, 1s. 1d. in 1856-57, to £3536, 4s. 10d. in 1870-71, testifies to the general interest which is now being taken by the people themselves in the cause of education. The cost of schools to Government has increased in a like proportion from £705, 7s. 0d. in 1856-57, to £3744, 8s. 4d. in 1870-71. In the schools the most marked increase is in the Aided Vernacular Schools, which have risen from 5 in 1856-57, to 190 in 1870-71, and the scholars in the same period from 289 to 5989.

In the following year, 1871-72, the number of Government and Aided Schools had increased to 272, and the number of pupils to 8970, of which 7890 were Hindus, 323 were Muhammadans, and 757 were either Santalis or Christians

(principally the former). Regarding the social status of the pupils, 24 belonged to the upper, 3174 to the middle, and 5771 to the lower classes. Besides these State Schools, there were also 1732 private and unaided schools, uninspected by the Educational Department, but reported by the police, containing a total estimated number of pupils of 19,413 ; making a grand total of 2004 schools in Midnapur District, attended by 28, 144 pupils, or one school to every 2.53 square miles of area, and one to every 1268 of the population, attended by one student for every 90 of the population. Excluding the 4 girls' schools, attended by 132 pupils, the result shows 2000 schools for the male population, attended by 28,012 boys. Taking the male population at 1,257, 194, this gives one school for every 628 males, and one boy attending school for every 44 of the male population. The following statement of schools in 1871-72, and the succeeding paragraphs, are reproduced from the Annual Report of the Educational Department for that year. It exhibits the state of public instruction in a somewhat different from than the foregoing table, and indicates the number of unaided schools and pupils in the District:—

HIGHER CLASS SCHOOLS.—‘There are in Midnapur,’ says the Inspector, ‘four higher class schools. The one situated at the *sadr* station is called a Government school, because it is under the direct management of the Educational Department ; though, of the £762, 10s. expended on it, £493, 10s. 0d. were collected as tuition fees, whilst the Government contribution was £269 (1871-72). At the close of the year the school was attended by 246 students, whilst the average daily attendance was 192. In the Tamluk aided higher school, the cost to Government was £76, 16s. 0d. ; £76, 0s. 0d. were collected from fees, and £260, 4s. 0d. from other local income. At the close of the year there were 76 students in the school, the average daily attendance being 50. In the two unaided higher class schools, attended at the close of the year by 201 students, with an average daily attendance of 141, £195, 8s. 0d. was collected in the shape of schooling fees, and £353, 12s. 0d. contributed from other local sources. One of these schools is supported by the Raja of Mashishadal on his *zamindari*, nearly opposite Diamond Harbour. No schooling fee is realized. The other is managed by a committee of English gentlemen in Midnapur,

**RETURN OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT, FOR THE YEARS
1856-57, 1860-61, AND 1870-71.**

CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS.	Number of Schools.			NUMBER OF PUPILS											
				Hindus			Muhammadans			Others.			Total.		
	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71
Government English School,	1	1	1	157	223	214	13	12	11	2			172	235	225
Government Vernacular Schools,	6	6	8	585	525	597	39	27	32	..			624	552	629
Government Institution for special Education, *	..		1	.		60					..		.	..	60
Aided English Schools,	2	+2	18	302	144	945	53	12	58	.	..	7	255	156	1010
Aided Vernacular Schools,	5	9	190	287	478	5727	2	2	230		5	32	289	485	5989
Aided Girls' Schools,			4		.	113	.		24		.	.		.	137
Private Institution for special Education. †	.		1	.	.	3				.	..	72	.	.	76
Total	14	18	223	1231	1370	7659	107	53	355	2	5	111	1340	1428	8125

* The Midnapur Training or Normal School, for masters, established in 1856.

† The two Aided English Schools in 1856 and 1860 were at Contar and Tamruk. In 1860-61, there were no pupils in the English Department of the Contar School. Such Schools have Vernacular Departments attached to them, and the columns opposite this class of Schools show the total pupils and total cost of both the English and Vernacular Departments.

† Another Training School for masters, supported partly by Government and partly by the American Baptist Mission. It is intended for the purpose of supplying masters to the Schools in the Santal villages.

RETURN OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT—CONTINUED.

Classification of schools.	Cost to Government.			Amount realized by Fees and Private Contributions.			Total cost		
	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Government English School,	270 6 0	357 19 8	402 9 7	269 18 8	296 9 11	404 16 1	540 4 8	654 7 7	807 5 8
Government Vernacular Schools,	312 11 4	326 11 7	227 4 11	54 7 2	79 15 9	249 2 4	366 18 6	406 7 4	476 7 3
Government Institution for special Education,*	.	.	697 7 3	.	.	.	.	.	697 7 3
Aided English Schools,	77 2 1	138 6 0	906 18 9	89 4 11	169 6 1	1403 8 3	163 7 4	275 6 3	2237 19 8
Aided Vernacular Schools,	45 7 7	117 2 8	1321 14 3	45 10 4	132 12 10	1200 13 9	90 17 11	248 19 6	2513 8 8
Aided Girls' Schools,	.	.	70 1 7	.	.	99 12 5	.	.	177 16 1
special Education. †	.	.	118 12 0	.	...	178 12 0	..	...	297 4 0
Total	705 7 0	939 19 11	3744 8 4	459 1 1	678 4 7	3536 4 10	1161 8 5	1585 0 8	7257 8 7

* The Midnapur Training or Normal School, for masters, established in 1856

† Another Training School for masters, supported partly by Government and partly by the American Baptist Mission. It is intended for the purpose of supplying masters to the Schools in the Santal villages.

RETURN OF SCHOOLS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT IN 1871-72

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOLS.	Number of Schools on 31st March 1872.	Number of Pupils attending on 31st March 1872.	Average Attendance.	Number of Masters.	RECEIPTS.			Total Cost.	Average Cost to Gov't of each Pupil	Total Average Cost of each Pupil
					Fees and Fines.	Government Grant.	Local Subscriptions.			
					£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d.	£ s. d.	£ s d.
(1) <i>Higher Schools—</i>										
Government,	1	246	192	10	493 10 0	269 0 0	...	762 10 0	1 1 10 1/2	3 1 11 1/2
Aided	1	76	50	6	76 0 0	76 16 0	260 4 0	413 0 0	1 0 2 1/2	5 8 8 1/2
Unaided,	2	201	141	9	195 8 0		353 12 0	549 0 0		2 14 7 1/2
Total	4	523	383	25	764 18 0	345 16 0	613 16 0	1724 10 0	0 13 2 1/2	3 5 11 1/2
(2) <i>Middle Schools—</i>										
Aided English	17	826	607	63	348 14 0	542 12 0	591 16 0	1554 0 0	0 13 1 1/2	1 17 7 1/2
Unaided English..	1	38	23	2	1 6 0		13 10 0	14 16 0	..	0 7 9 1/2
Government Vernacular	7	517	390	18	204 16 0	181 4 0	58 6 8	444 6 0	0 7 0 1/2	0 17 2 1/2
Aided Vernacular,	26	1125	777	62	197 8 0	398 16 0	338 0 0	934 6 0	0 7 1	0 16 7 1/2
Total	51	2506	1797	145	752 4 0	1122 12 0	1001 12 0	2947 8 0	0 8 11 1/2	1 3 6 1/2
(3) <i>Primary Schools—</i>										
Aided	214	5671	3,959	206	492 18 0	1007 4 0	204 8 0	1713 4 0	0 3 6 1/2	0 6 0 1/2
Unaided,	1729	19,174	15,000	1729	3360 0 0		..	3360 0 0		0 3 6 1/2
Total	1943	24,845	18,959	1935	3852 18 0	1007 4 0	204 8 0	5073 4 0	0 0 9 1/2	0 4 1

RETURN OF SCHOOLS IN MIDNAPUR DISTRICT IN 1871-72—CONTINUED.

Description of Schools.	Number of Schools on 31st March 1872	Number of Pupils attending on 31st March 1872.	Average Attendance.	Number of Masters.	Receipts.			Total Cost.	Average Cost to Gov't of each Pupil	Total Average Cost of each Pupil.
					Fees and Fines	Government Grant	Local Subscriptions.			
					£ s d	£ s d	£ s. d	£ s d.	£ s d	£ s. d.
(4) Normal Schools—										
Government,	1	83	53	3		617 4 0		617 4 0	7 8 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 8 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Aided	1	55	60	3		120 0 0	120 0 0	240 0 0	2 3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 7 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	2	138	113	6		737 4 0	120 0 0	857 4 0	5 6 10	6 4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
(5) Girls' Schools—										
Aided Girls' Schools,	3	72	54	3		37 4 0	43 18 0	81 2 0	0 10 4	1 2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Zanana Association,	1	60	78	8	3 4 0	36 0 0	71 14 0	113 18 0	0 12 0	1 17 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	4	132	132	11	3 4 0	73 4 0	115 12 0	195 0 0	0 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Government and Aided ..	272	8,751	6,220	382	1816 10 0	3286 0 0	1683 6 0	6,873 10 0	0 7 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 15 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Unaided,	1732	19,413	15,164	1740	3556 14 0		367 2 0	3,923 16 0		0 4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Total, ...	2004	28,144	21,384	2122	5373 4 0	3286 0 0	2055 8 0	10,797 6 0	0 2 4	0 7 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

and is attended by poorer boys than those who attend the Government school ; the masters being also very inferior to those employed therein.

"The income of the whole of the higher schools during the year was £160 in excess of the expenditure. The was due in some degree to good fortune in the receipts at Tamluk, the contractor for the schoolhouse having very liberally made over to the School Committee all the profits that he made in building the house. The committee is an active one, and seems to be fertile in devices for raising an income. Part of the money now at the credit of the school has been lent to a Raja at a high rate of interest, on the security of his *zamindari* ; part has been invested in a small apothecary's shop, which pays well, and is said to do a great deal of good besides ; and part has been invested in stamped paper, which is sold at a profit, and brings in a decent income to the school. It is to be noticed that the average daily attendance during 1871-72 is far below the number on the rolls on the last day of the year. This is in a great measure due to the fact that the higher class schools were in a very prosperous state at the end of the year. During the year I have inspected all these schools, except that supported by the Raja of Mahishadal. The Government school is an excellent one ; the other two which I inspected are fair schools. Five boys out of seven for the Midnapur Government Schools passed the University Entrance Examination in the second grade, two of the number gaining scholarships ; one other lad passed in three subjects out of four. From the other English school at Midnapur, one boy passed in the third division. All the lads from Tamluk last year were plucked, and none appeared from Mahishadal. This school has only been open two or three years, and the lads have hardly had time to work up to the standard. In the higher class schools, there were at the close of the year, 491 Hindus, 27 Muhammadans, and 5 Christians. Classified according to social status, 15 of the pupils belonged to the upper, 463 to the middle, and 45 to the lower classes. In the Government, Aided, and Unaided higher class schools, the total cost for the year for educating each pupil was £3, 1s. 11 $\frac{7}{8}$ d., £5, 8s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and £2, 14s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively ; the cost to Government for each pupil in the Government School being £1, 1s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and for those in the Tamluk Aided School, £1, 0s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

MIDDLE CLASS ENGLISH SCHOOLS.—“There is no Government schools of this class in the District, but 17 such schools are aided ; and there is also an unaided school, the latter having been opened in the hope that aid would soon be given by Government. If I look at these schools solely as respects the amount of instruction imparted, I may say that two of them (those at Contai and Panchkura) are excellent ; that four others are good, seven fair, four moderate, and one (that at Manglapota) bad. Looking at them with reference to their management and their local finances, I consider that nine of them are excellent or good, seven fair, and two (those at Chhatraganj and Kadra) are very indifferent. It is strange that the three worst schools of this class are all in the north of the District, in the Garhbeta Subdivision. The unsatisfactory condition of the Kadra and Manglapota schools is in a great measure due to a late change in the Subdivisional officer, and to the fact that the past and present officer held diametrically opposite views as to the way in which Government should act in the matter of education. The unsatisfactory state of the finances at Chhatraganj is due to the transfer of the *zamindari* court from that place, and also to the want of active assistance on the part of the Subdivisional officer. It is worthy of remark, that though Jhargaon is a very unfavourable field for an educationalist, it is the site of a fairly prosperous school, which entirely owes its stability to the interest taken in it by the Raja, who, though himself an illiterate man, compels his clerks, retainers, and servants to send their boys to his school, and encourages the *mandals* of the villages in his *zamindari* to send their sons to reside at Jhargaon for the purpose of being able to attend. He has also shown a good example by sending his grandson to the school, where he studies with the children of the Raja's tenants. Besides Jhargaon, the schools at Manglapota, Sarbaria, Rangua, and Narayargarh depend entirely for their support upon single individuals. In all the other schools there are a number of petty subscribers. During the year, I visited the Chhatraganj, Manglapota, Garhbeta, Baliarpur, Contai, Dantun, Rangua, and Narayargarh schools. In the middle class English schools there were, at the close of the year, 826 Hindu, 30 Muhammadan, and 8 Christian pupils, of whom 6 belonged to the upper, 483 to the middle, and 375 to the lower classes of society.

MIDDLE CLASS VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.—“There are seven Government and twenty-six aided schools of this class in Midnapur. Of the seven Government schools, four are real model schools ; the other three are situated in out-of-the way places, where there is little or no demand for education. One of these latter, in the south of the District, is doing well ; the two others, in the extreme west, have not as yet succeeded in exciting much desire for education amongst the people living in their neighbourhood. In the excellent vernacular school in the town of Midnapur, the pupils paid as fees last year £122, 6s. I find that in only two other vernacular schools in Bengal there is collected annually upwards of £100 a year. In one of those schools (in Calcutta), about £600 are annually collected ; the other is at Maimansinh, where the collections are about as much as at Midnapur. Next in fees come Gowhatti (Gauhati) (with £90) and Sibsagar (with £80 annually). No other school collects as much as £60. Half of the *aided* vernacular schools are in a *very* satisfactory condition. In the great majority of others, whilst the instruction given is good, the management and financial arrangements are only fair, or *vice versa*. In one case (at Pathra) I class the school in each respect as fair only ; and in that of Gobardhanpur, against each head I would put moderate only ; the other two are new schools, which promise well. In the Mahapal and Tilantopara schools, almost the whole expenditure has been in each case borne by one wealthy individual ; in the other schools, many gentlemen of the middle classes have contributed small sums. During the year I visited, besides the schools in the *sadr* station, those at Anandpur and Tamluk. In the middle class vernacular schools there were, at the close of the year, 1595 Hindus and 47 Muhammadans, of whom 2 belonged to the higher, 852 to the middle, and 788 to the lower classes. In the Government vernacular schools, the education of each pupil cost 17s. 2d. in 1871-72, whilst the charge to the State for each was 7s. In the aided schools, the total cost, and the proportion borne by the State, were respectively 16s. 7d. and 7s. 1d. At the vernacular scholarship examination, two four-year scholarship were gained by pupils from Government schools, whilst five went to those from aided schools ; Government schools gained five one-year scholarships, whilst aided schools gained four only. During the year under review, the

improvement of the existing middle class schools has occupied a considerable portion of the time of myself and my deputies, and I think our efforts have been successful in improving their condition. On my recommendation, grants were withdrawn from three schools whose finances were in an unsatisfactory condition ; and this will lead others to be more careful, lest they should share the same fate.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.—‘Only two schools of this class under native managers, viz. a workman’s night-school at Midnapur, and a school at Parmanandpur, are aided under the Grant-in-Aid Rules ; but the American Baptist Mission has forty-two schools amongst the Santals, of which Government divides the expense with the Mission, share and share alike. Besides these, there are 162 improved day *pathsalas* and 8 night *pathsalas*. In these village schools it was supposed that the teachers would get from their pupils about 10s. a month ; but, for reasons which I have entered into elsewhere, they hardly get half that amount. It was decided that Government, to bear a moiety of the expense, should give each man 10s. a month so long as he taught a school satisfactorily ; it would be cutting inches off the stick at both ends, if Government cut down its contribution because a man received less than was expected from the villagers ; so that now nearly two-thirds of the cost of these schools is borne by the State. Early in the year under review, feeling it absolutely necessary to repress the tendency which these schools had to work up to a standard too high for them, I informed my deputies here as well as elsewhere, that as the primary object of a village schools was to teach the boys to write a good hand, to read written documents with facility, and to be versed in mental arithmetic and accounts, as well as in the composition of letters and deeds, no village teacher was to be allowed to teach his boys the course used in a middle class vernacular school unless three-fourths of the guardians of the boys stated that they wished such a course introduced, and that they did not wish for anything *at all resembling* the old class of *pathsala* under a *guru-mahasay* or village schoolmaster. I believe that by this means these schools have been kept down to what they were intended to be more than in previous years, but it is a matter requiring careful attention. Of the students attending these schools in 1871-72,

4789 were Hindus, 193 were Muhammadans, whilst 689 were either Santals or Christians, of whom 1266 belonged to the middle and 4405 to the lower classes. In the total 214 aided primary schools, attended by 5671 pupils, the total cost of each scholar was 6s. 0½d., of which the State contributed rather more than half, or 3s. 6½d. per head.

NORMAL SCHOOLS.—“There are two schools in Midnapur District whose object it is to train teachers for our vernacular schools : that supported by Government, trains for Bengali schools ; and that supported partly by Government and partly by the American Baptist Mission, trains for Santal schools. The teachers in the former school were wholly occupied for some years in turning out trained teachers for primary schools, but during the last year a class has also been opened corresponding to the lowest class in a higher-grade Normal School. This has been done without any extra charge to Government. Those studying with the object of becoming village teachers receive from Government (during the year they are so occupied) 10s. a month. Up to the last year, *every lad* who passed the final examination took charge of a village school and became entitled to 10s. a month from Government so long as he gave satisfaction. Last year no funds were available for opening new village schools, and consequently nine lads who passed the examination and gained certificates have not as yet obtained stipends ; but it is almost certain that the usual 10s. a month will soon be forthcoming for them. Forty-three other lads also passed, to whom Government was under an undertaking to pay the regular allowance. Of their number, 38 have either opened or are engaged in opening schools in the District. Since this school first opened in 1865, 239 lads have gained certificates, and all opened village schools, either in this or one of the neighbouring Districts, with the exception of the nine men above referred to. Fifty-one lads from the school appeared this year at the Pass Examination for all the training schools in Bengal ; fifty of the number passed,—a result which testifies to the ability and successful work of the teachers of the school. In the Santal Normal School it was at first necessary to begin to instruct the students from the very alphabet. As a consequence, for some time it was not possible for men educated there to open

village schools ; but it has begun sending out a supply, and 12 of the 42 teachers now employed in the Santal villages have gone out from this Normal School. At first it was necessary to employ any teachers that could be procured ; but now a rule has been made, that no man is to be placed in charge of a school who has not gone through a course of training in the Normal School. Of the old class of teachers employed, two were decidedly superior to the others ; they lived in villages near the borders of civilisation, and had themselves attended indigenous Bengali *pathsalas*. Twelve of *their* pupils are now employed as Santal schoolmasters, and some of the number are quite equal, if not superior, to their former instructors. Twice a year all the Santal teachers are called together to a village centrically situated about twenty miles from Midnapur, and are examined by the Baptist Missionary. I make a point of attending this gathering whenever possible, and taking my share in the examination. The results on each occasion are carefully tabulated ; and it is pleasant to be able to say, that whilst the course is slightly extended on each occasion, the marks gained have been also decidedly higher half-year after half-year, and that there is a great desire amongst the younger teachers to gain higher marks than those gained by the more experienced. Already several have passed in the race one of the two teachers who were for some time the best, and are pressing close upon the footsteps of the other, who is obliged himself to study hard to keep his position. Besides reading, writing, and spelling, all that they at present learn is an easy arithmetic, or rather collection of Bengali tables, called *Dhara path* ; the very elements of grammar (the formation of compound letters and words), and the definitions of the various terms used in geography.

‘Of the two Normal Schools, the Government one is much the superior. I lately enrolled, among the pupils of this school, the most intelligent and most advanced Santal I have ever seen. He has been employed by the Mission as a visitor of their schools, and when trained—as he will understand better what a school ought to be—he will be much more useful than he now is. Of the students attending the Government school, all were Hindus. Since the establishment of this school, one Muhammadan has joined ; and though he at first opened a

school in a village chiefly inhabited by Musalmans, his pupils have by degrees left him. Since the year came to an end, a Christian Santal, as already said, has joined the school. In the *aided* Normal School all the students are either Santal or Christian lads. I have inspected both these schools during the year.' In the Government Normal School, the cost for each pupil in 1871-72 was £7, 8s. 8⁵/₈d. per head, the whole of which was borne by the State. In the Aided Normal School, the cost of each pupil was £4, 7s. 3¹/₄d., of which Government contributed one half, or £2, 3s. 7⁵/₈d.

GIRLS' SCHOOLS.—'There are three aided girls' schools, and one Aided *zanana* Association, from which I have received returns ; but I am also aware of two other girls' schools in the town of Midnapur,—one supported by the residents in the station, the other kept up by the Baptist Mission for orphan girls (principally) taken in by them on the occasion of the famine of 1866. There is also a private girls' school at Jaikrishnapur, in the north-east of the District, attended by 22 girls. Of these three latter schools I have received no statistics ; but they are attended by 70 or 80 girls. The three aided girls' schools managed by native gentlemen, and situated in the towns of Midnapur, Tamluk, and the Village of Chandpur, are attended by 72 girls ; towards the cost of their education Government contributed during the year £37, 4s. 0d., whilst subscriptions in their support to the extent of £43, 18s. 0d. were raised. Girls in the Mufassal will not pay schooling fees, but their parents often subscribe to the school. Of the 72 girls, 60 belong to the middle, and 12 to the lower classes of society. I have visited two of the three schools.

'During the year, the ladies connected with the Midnapur Baptist Mission and their assistants taught, on an average, 78 native ladies in *zananas* in the town. At the close of the year there were only 60 under instruction. The falling off was due to the fact that a native lady in the town joined the Church of England ; this, of course, led to the closure of many doors against Christian teachers. In the village schools there are 106 girls under instruction ; last year there were 185. The falling off is due to the fact that teachers used to be paid for every girl who attended ; now they are only paid for every girl who can read easy sentences, and write on the palm leaf.' In the

three aided girls' schools, the cost of each pupil was £1, 2s. 6d., of which 10s. 4d. was contributed by Government. In the Aided *Zanana* Association, the total cost, and the proportion borne by the State, were £1, 17s. 11½d. and 12s. respectively.

UNINSPECTED INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS.—“The police return 1729 indigenous schools in the District, entirely unconnected with Government, and attended by 19,174 students. From inquiries on the subject it is believed that about 100 similar schools have been closed. The people cannot understand the reason for such inquiries. In their opinion, inquiry precedes taxation, and therefore some of the teachers of the smaller schools have closed them, through fear of being taxed. Of course these men have attempted to hide the fact that they ever taught a school ; they cannot therefore be found and re-assured. It will be seen that each teacher has, on an average, 11 pupils only ; the largest (average) schools are in *thana* Midnapur. As might be expected, here the schools are attended by, on an average, 16·5 boys. The *thanas* in which the schools are next largest are Daspur in the north-east, Pataspur in the south-east, Garhbeta in the north, Tamluk and Maslandpur in the east of the District. In all these *thanas* the average number of pupils in each *pathsala* is above 14. The smallest attendance is in *thanas* Gopiballabhpur and Jhargaon, in the extreme west of the District : there, there are only respectively 5 and 6 pupils for each teacher. In Raghunathpur, Contai, Egra, Sutahati, Dantun, and Bhagwanpur, all in the south-east, and in Narayangarh, just south of Midnapur, the *pathsalas* are attended by less than ten boys each. On the whole, I am inclined to think the return fairly correct, as great care was taken. In every case is given the name of the teacher and the number of his pupils, whilst the actual numbers agree *nearly* with the estimates of my deputies ; but I do not think it can be wholly relied on, since in *thana* Pataspur we find 74 *pathsalas*, attended on an average by 15 pupils, whilst in the adjoining *thana* (Egra) we find only 23 *pathsalas*, attended on an average by only 8 pupils.

‘On the whole, it appears that in Midnapur there are about 28,000 children under instruction, of whom about one-third are in schools regularly visited by officers of the Educational Department.

'In each of the jails at Midnapur elementary instruction is given to all those who wish for it, the teachers also being prisoners ; in the Central Jail fifty, and in the District Jail thirty men, meet between 6 and 8 o'clock every evening. The number who attend school is larger in proportion to the number of prisoners in the District Jail. The Superintendent explains this by the fact that the prisoners are not so hard worked as are those in the Central Jail. In my opinion, it would be good if every prisoner was obliged to attend school'.

POSTAL STATISTICS.—There has been a marked increase in the use of the Post Office within the last few years. Since 1861-62, the number of letters, newspapers, parcels, and books received at the Midnapur Post Office has very nearly doubled, the total having increased from 80,435 in 1861-62 to 155,916 in 1870-71. The number despatched was 71,362 in 1861-62, and 90,987 in 1865-66. I have not yet succeeded in obtaining the number of letters despatched in 1870-71. The postal receipts increased from £632, 15s. 5d. in 1861-62, to £1479, 7s. 10d. in 1870-71, exclusive of £347, 0s. 6d., receipts from sale of stamps for official correspondence, which in previous year were included with the general receipts, making a total

POSTAL STATISTICS OF MIDNAPUR DISTRICT, FOR THE YEARS
1861-62, 1865-66, AND 1870-71

	1861-62		1865-66		1870-71	
	Received	Des-patched	Received	Des-patched	Received	Des-patched
Letters, . . .	68,920	69,144	87,199	87,990	139,078	<i>Materials not received for this Column</i>
Newspapers, . .	7,515	968	9,126	1,134	11,559	
Parcels, . . .	1,607	1,122	2,189	1,715	1,128	
Books, . . .	2,393	128	1,364	148	4,151	
Total. . .	80,435	71,362	99,878	90,987	155,916	.
Sale of postage stamps, . . .	£293	0 7	£603	15 8	£786	2 11
Cash collections, .	339	14 10	287	5 10	693	4 11
Total receipts, . .	632	15 5	891	1 6	1479	7 10*
Total expenditure,	1646	0 9	1516	15 7	2427	10 9

* Exclusive of receipts from sale of service stamps for official correspondence, which in 1870-71 amounted to £347, 0s. 6d., making a total of £1826, 8s. 4d. Service stamps were first introduced in 1866.

revenue from the Midnapur Post Office in 1870-71 of £1826, 8s. 4d. On the expenditure side of the account, the charges of the Post Office have increased from £1646, 0s. 9d. in 1861-62, to £2427, 10s. 9d. in 1870-71. The following [foregoing-Ed.] table, showing the number of letters, newspapers, etc., received at and despatched from the Midnapur Post Office, together with the postal receipts and expenditure for the years 1861-62, 1865-66, and 1870-71, is compiled from a Return furnished to me by the Director-General of Post Offices.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS.—For administrative purposes, Midnapur District is divided into the following four Subdivisions. The population Statistics are taken from the Appendix, Statements 1A and 1B, to the Census Report of 1872. The Administrative Statistics are taken from the special report furnished to me by the Collector, with the revised returns obtained through the Bengal Government.

THE SADR OR HEADQUARTERS SUBDIVISION contains a total area of 2962 square miles, with 7765 villages or townships, 232,470 houses : total population, 1,276,388 of whom 1,129,446, or 88·5 per cent., are Hindus ; 71,771, or 5·6 per cent., are Muhammadans ; 365 are Christians ; and 74,806, or 5·9 per cent., are people belonging to other denominations not classified separately in the Census Report. Proportion of males of all religions in the total Subdivisionsl population, 49·4 per cent. Average density of the population, 431 persons to the square mile ; average number of villages per square mile, 2·62 ; average number of perosns per village or township, 164 ; average number of houses per square mile, 78 ; average number of inmates per house, 5·5. The Subdivision comprises the eleven police circles (*thanas*) of Midnapur, Narayangarh, Dantun, Gopiballabhpur, Jhargaon, Bhimpur, Salbani, Kespur, Daspur, Debra, and Sabang. In 1870-71 it contained 8 Civil and 7 Magisterial and Revenue Courts. The regular police consisted of 47 officers and 223 men—total, 270 ; a rural police or village watch (*chaukidars*) of 2650 men ; and the Midnapur town police, of 4 officers and 75 men. The separate cost of Subdivisional Administration in 1870-71 is thus returned by the Collector :—Cost of Civil Administration, £7597, 8s. 0d. ; cost of Magisterial and Revenue Administration, £5963, 12s.

0d. ; cost of *chaukidars* paid by the villagers, £3447, 6s. 0d. ; cost of *chaukidars* paid out of the *khas mahal* fund, or by estates under the direct management of Government, £249, 12s. 0d. ; cost of town police, £512, 8s. 0d. ; total cost of Subdivisional Administration, £17,770, 6s. 0d. The town and station of Midnapur, the most important place in the Subdivision, was formally declared the Headquarters of the District on the 22d September 1783.

TAMLUK SUBDIVISION is supposed to have been created in November 1851. It contains an area of 621 square miles, with 1522 villages or townships, 72,438 houses, and a total population of 467,817, of whom 424,075, or 90·7 per cent., are Hindus ; 43,317, or 9·3 per cent., Muhammadans ; 209 Christians ; and 216 of other denominations not separately classified. Proportion of males of all religions in the total Subdivisional population, 48·9. Average density of population, 753 per square mile ; average number of villages per square mile, 2·45 ; average number of persons per village or township, 307 ; average number of houses per square mile, 117 ; average number of inmates per hour 6·5. The subdivision comprises the five police circles (*thanas*) of Tamluk, Panchkura, Maslandpur, Sutamata, and Nandigaon. In 1870-71 it contained one Magisterial and Revenue Court ; a regular police force consisting of 8 officers and 142 men—total, 150 ; and a village watch consisting of 1599 men. The Collector returns the total separate cost of Subdivisional Administration at £4523, 4s. 0d., including the value of about 515 acres of *jagir* land, and which is set down at £449, 16s. 4d. See also *ante*, 62—67 ; *post*, 218 ; and my *Orissa*, vol. i.

CONTAI (KANTHI) SUBDIVISION.—Created on the 1st January 1852. Contains a total area of 850 square miles, with 2201 villages or townships, 77,626 houses, and a total population of 442,272 souls, of whom 420,559, or 95·1 per cent., are Hindus ; 21,445, or 4·8, are Muhammadans ; 21 Christians ; and 247, or ·05 per cent., of other denominations not classified. Proportion of males of all religions in the total Subdivisional population, 50·6 per cent. Average density of population, 520 per square mile ; average number of villages per square mile, 2·59 ; average number of persons per village or township,

201 ; average number of houses per square mile, 91 ; average number of inmates per house, 5·7. The Subdivision comprises the six police circles (*thanas*) of Contai, Raghunathpur, Egra, Khejiri (Kedgerie), Pataspur, and Bhagwanpur. In 1871 it contained 1 Magisterial and Revenue Court ; a regular police force consisting of 35 officers and 157 men—total, 192 ; and a rural police or village watch of 1552 men. The Collector returns the cost of the separate Administration of the Subdivision, in 1870-71, to be as follows :—Salary of Subdivisional officer, £360 ; salaries of establishment, £206, 8s. 0d. ; cost of police, £2486, 10s. 0d. ; cost of *chaukidars* (exclusive of *paiks*), £3552 ; total cost of Subdivisional Administration, £6604, 18s. 0d., exclusive of the yearly value of the *chakran* or service land, held rent-free by the *paiks*.

GARHBETA SUBDIVISION.—Supposed to have been created in 1850. It contains a total area of 649 square miles, with 1474 villages or townships, 63,511 houses, and a total population of 354,486 of whom 311,488, or 87·9 per cent., are Hindus ; 20,514, or 5·8 per cent., are Muhammadans ; 18 are Charistians ; and 22,466, or 6·3 per cent., belong to other denominations not classified. Proportion of males of all religions in the total Subdivisional population, 49·4. Average density of population, 546 per square mile ; average number of villages per square mile, 2·27 ; average number of in-habitants per village or township, 240 ; average number of houses per square mile, 98 ; average number of inmates per house, 5·6. The Subdivision comprises the three police circles (*thanas*) of Garhbeta, Chandrakona, and Ghatal. In 1870-71 it contained one Magisterial and Revenue Court ; with a regular police force consisting of 11 officers and 56 men—total, 67 ; and 420 *chaukidars*, or village police. The Collector returned the cost of Subdivisional Administration in 1870-71 as under :—Salary of Subdivisional officers, £475, 2s. 0d. ; salaries of establishment, £163, 12s. 0d. ; cost of regular police, £877, 6s. 0d. Total cost of Subdivisional Administration in 1870-71, £1516, 0s. 0d., exclusive of the cost of the village police, who are paid by grants of land.

NUMBER OF VILLAGES.—In the year 1790, and again in 1800, the number of villages in Midnapur District was returned at

10,739. In 1870, the Collector, in his report to me, estimate them at 11,468 ; and in 1872 they were definitely ascertained by the Census to amount to 12,962 ; average population, 196 souls.

FISCAL DIVISIONS.— I have compiled the following list of the 109 Fiscal Divisions in Midnapur District, partly from Mr. Collector H. V. Bayley's valuable Ms. Report on Midnapur, dated January 1852 ; partly from a Report by Mr. J. S. Torrens, dated April 1849 ; and partly from the Board of Revenue's *Pargana* Statistics, which disclose wide and irreconcilable discrepancies. The area, land revenue, number of estates, chief villages, etc., in each village are taken principally from the Board of Revenue's Return, and partly from Mr. Torrens' Report. Owing to the inherent badness of the Survey mentioned at page 106, they must be received with great caution, and merely as the best I can obtain. All other particulars are condensed from Mr. H. V. Bayley's Mr. Report. I have endeavoured to distinguish between the permanently settled and temporarily settled estates, but in some cases have been unable to do so. I have also brought my list into conformity with any recent transfers which have been reported to me, or which are shown on the latest maps furnished to me by the Surveyor-General. But the unstable character of *pargana* boundaries opens a constant source of error.

(I) AGRACHAUR comprises an area of 21,260 acres, or 33 22 square miles. It contains 35 estates, with 129 villages ; pays a total land revenue of £1491, 2s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being 1s. 4³/₄d. ; situated within the jurisdiction of the Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 17,185. It is a permanently settled *pargana*, the chief product being rice and sugar-cane. The two principal villages are Agra and Nagwan, the latter of which was formerly a Joint Magistrate's Satation, with ten subordinate police circles (*thanas*). A sacred tank is situated near the village, in which is said to be an image of Siva, thirty feet under water. The place is much revered, the tank having the reputation of effecting miraculous cures on diseased persons who perform certain devotional vigils on its banks during the *Sivaratri* festival, in February. No Hindu will

venture into the tank, which is belived to be a favourite residence of Siva, who resents such intrusion by scizing the intruder and holding him under water.

(2) **AMARSI** : area, 25,918 acres, or 40.49 square miles ; 59 estates ; 349 villages : land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens' and Mr. Bayley's Reports, £3602, 9s. 0d. ; according to the Board of Revenue's Return, £3596, 18s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being 2s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre. Estimated population, 17,030. A permanently settled *Pargana* ; principal village, Kasba Balgobindpur, a large market-place. Mr. Bayley states that this *pargana* is liable to inundation of the embankments of the Kaliaghai river are not kept in a state of efficiency. It produces rice, mustard, sugar-cane, and native vegetables. The Midnapur fish market is largely supplied from this *pargana*, a distance of twenty-two miles off.

(3) **AMIRABAD** : area, 2202 acres, or 3.44 square miles ; 3 estates ; 9 villages : land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens' and Mr. Bayley's Reports, £205, 18s. 0d. ; according to the Board of Revenue, £38, 4s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. an acre. Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal. A temporarily settled *pargana*, the Settlement of which expired in 1872 ; the re-settlement is now (1873) in progress. Population, 715.

(4) **AURANGNAGAR** : area, 11,855 acres, or 18.52 square miles ; 1 estate ; 37 villages : land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens' Report, £15,499, 9s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being 2s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre. A permanently settled *pargana* ; chief village, Nandanpur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal. Population, 7615.

(5) **BAENDA BAZAR** : area, 694 acres, or 1.09 square miles : land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens' Report, £84, 13s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 2s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre. In the Board of Revenue's Return, the number of estates and amount of land revenue are included in those of *jalamuta*. It is a small *pargana* of only four villages, and temporarily settled ; the Settlement expired in 1872, and a fresh one is now in progress of formation. Estimated population, 720 ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal.

(6) BAGRI : area, 284,258 acres, or 444'15 square miles ; 75 estates ; 1335 villages ; land revenue, £5567, 18s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre ; principal villages or towns, the Sub-divisional town and station of Garhbeta, and Kayapat ; Subordiante Judge's Court at Bagri. This is a permanently settled *pargana* in the north of the District, of the greater part of which Messrs. Waston & Co. are the permanent leaseholders, who have serveral indigo factories and silk filatures situated within it. The *pargana* contains an estimated population of 90,250 souls.

(7) BAHADURPUR : area, according to Mr. Torrens' Report, 55,837 acres, or 87 24 square miles ; 430 villages, of which the chief is Bahadurpur. In the Board of Revenue's Return, the area, number of estates, and amount of land revenue, are included with those of Midnapur or Bhanjbhum. Estimated population, 20,140 souls. A permanently settled *pargana* ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the town of Midnapur.

(8) BAHIRIMUTA : area, inclusive of that of Bhaitgarh, 32, 492 acres, or 50'77 square mils, according to Mr. Torrens's Report ; and 12,462 acres, or 19 47 square miles, according to the Board of Revenue's Report, and the Collector's Return dated 1870. It contains 29 estates and 56 villages. Land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens, £923, 19s. 0d. ; according to the Board of Revenue, £589, 18s. 0d. The decrease is probably due to the lessened area of the *pargana*. Principal village, Parbahiri ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 13,460 souls.

(9) BHAITGARH : area included with that of Bahirimuta ; 10 estates ; land revenue, £72, 4s. 0d. ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 500. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(10)BAJARPUR : area, 3940 acres, or 6.16 square miles ; 21 estates ; 55 villages : land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens' Report in 1849, £574, 16s. 0d. ; according to the Board of Revenue's Return, £567, 8s. 0d. ; averager rate of assessment, 2s. 11d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 2705. This is a permanently settled *pargana*, adjoining Amarsi, and, like it, is liable to inundation by the Kaliaghai river, if the embankments are not properly

kept up. Mr. Bayley, in his MS. Report, says : 'Bajarpur produces pine apples in such abundance, that the cultivators are said to pay their rents in that fruit.'

(11)BALRAMPUR : area, 37,318 acres, or 58.31 square miles ; 5 estates ; 107 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £385, or an average assessment of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. an acre ; present land revenue, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £431, or an average rate of assessment of $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. an acre ; principal village, Balrampur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Headquarters town of Midnapur ; estimated population, 20,245. Mr. Bayley states this was one of three *parganas* settled at the time of the Decennial Settlement, with one Bir Prasad Das, the *Sadr chaudhri* or chief collecting officer of the District. In virtue of his office, he held service-lands (*Nankar*), which were continued to him at half rental at the time of the Decennial Settlement. He died leaving no son, and disputes arose between his two wives, which led to the sale of the property in 1837. Government purchased the estate, and a Settlement was made under Regulation VII. of 1822. Bir Prasad Chaudhri is said to have been a great sportsman, and to have reserved his Balrampur estate as a preserve for game. Another story relates how, as a punishment for the abduction of a lady of rank in Midnapur town, the then Magistrate sentenced the Chaudhri to corporal punishment of thirty stripes ; and that the man who had to inflict it received from the latter a reward of ten *bighas* of rent-free land for every stripe inflicted, making three hundred *bighas*, or one hundred acres in all, in consideration of his laying on the stripes so lightly as to leave neither pain nor mark, while the sound of the blow was so made as to appear that it was given with full force. This grant of land was resumed by the Government at the time of the Settlement (about 1840), and settled with the rent-free holder at half rates. Balrampur *pargana* is high land, exposed to drought, and requires artificial irrigation. The chief products are rice, indigo, and oilseeds. The Settlement of the *pargana* expired in 1869, and resettlement is now (1873) in progress.

(12)BALLJORA : area, 7091 acres, or 11.08 square miles ; 21 estates ; 48 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £578, 15s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being is. $6\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre ; the land revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of

Revenue's Statistics, is only £68, 14s. 0d., or an average rate of $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre ; Subdivisional Court at Nimal ; estimated population. 4340. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now in process of being formed.

(13) BALSITA TAPPA : area, 3288 acres, or 5·14 square miles ; 4 estates ; 42 villages ; land revenue, £653, 2s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 4s. an acre ; principal village, Balsita ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 1035. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(14) BARAICHAUR : area, 15,215 acres, or 23·77 square miles ; 30 estates ; 135 villages ; land revenue, £884, 10s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being 1s. $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 8515. The principal product of the *pargana*, which is permanently settled, is rice ; but the land is low, and exposed to the risk of inundation.

(15) BARAJIT TAPPA : area 4334 acres, or 6·77 square miles ; 1 estate ; 23 villages ; land revenue, £69, 6s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 2255.

(16) BARDA : area, 52,846 acres, or 82·57 square miles ; 29 estates ; land revenue, £5509, 16s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 2s. 1d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Ghatal, which is the principal village of the *pargana* ; estimated population, 67,216. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(17) BATITAKI : area, 8794 acres, or 13·74 square miles ; 31 estates ; 319 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £1251, 2s. 0d. ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £1077, 18s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 2s. 10d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 5000. Previous to the British accession, this *pargana* belonged to the Narayangarh family, and subsequently to the Chaudhris of Khandar. But at the time of the Decennial Settlement it was in the possession of small holders, with whom it was settled. The ten years' Settlement was afterwards made permanent.

(18)BAZI ZAMIN BAZIAFTI : area, 1224 acres, or 1.91 square miles ; 4 estates ; 139 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £159, 7s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 2s. 7d. an acre ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £64, 8s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 1s. 0½d. per acre ; estimated population, 1000.

(19)BELABARIA : area, 13,925 acres, or 21·75 square miles ; 1 estate ; 46 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £82, 10s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 1½d. an acre ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £75, 2s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 1¼d. an acre ; principal village, Belabaria ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 8490. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(20)BHUIYAMUTA : area, 10,200 acres, or 15·93 square miles ; 34 estates ; 84 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £2510, 1s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 4s. 11d. an acre ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £2440, or an average rate of assessment of 4s. 9¼d. per acre ; principal village, Bhuiyamuta ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 7880. The *pargana*, which is permanently settled, is very fertile one. It produces rice, betel-leaf (*pan*), areca-nuts (*supari*) cocoa-nuts, sugar-cane, and second crops generally on the high lands. Mr. Bayley, in his ms. Report, states that it is considered a very remunerative *pargana*, and that the purchase of land in it is a favourite investment of capital. It is held, and has been so from a period anterior to our rule, by small proprietors. Some of the largest estates within it have been purchased by the Majnamuta family. A fresh-water canal, used for irrigation purposes, also runs through the *pargana*.

(21)BIRKUL : area, 22,632 acres, or 35·36 square miles ; 24 estates ; 97 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £2073, 7s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 1s 10d. an acre ; the Board of Revenue's Statistics return the land revenue of the present *pargana* at £2063, 0s., or an average assessment of 1s. 9¾d. per acre ; principal village, Birkul ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 11,890. This *paragna* is stated, in a Report by Mr. Collector Hewett, dated 15th June

1787, to have been formerly dependent upon the Orissa Tributary State of Morbhanj, the Raja of which managed the estate and collected its revenues through *sardars*. The cultivators revolted, and established one Sagar Rai in the *zamindari* of Birkul about 1500 A.D. Jadu Rai, his son, held Birkul and Kakra *parganas* for 30 years ; his son, Purushottam Rai, held the same for 36 years ; and his son Narhari Rai succeeded for 60 years. This latter made his eldest son *zamindar* of Birkul ; his second son, *chaudhri* or accountant of his property ; and his third, *zamindar* of Kakra. In 1760, one Sobpur (Qy.) Rai purchased a nine anas or nine-sixteenths share of Birkul. In 1852 Mr. Bayley stated that the *pargana* was still nominally divided into a nine *anas* and a seven *anas* share, but that in reality these shares were subdivided into numerous small tenures by sales, execution of decrees, foreclosure of mortgagages, etc. At the time of the Decennial Settlement, Birkul is said to have been much under jungle, and very backward in cultivation. Since then it has been well and profitably cultivated, and in 1852 was considered a good *pargana* for buying property in. The produce consists of rice, pulses, oil-seeds, cotton, cocoa-nuts, and vegetables.

(22) BASIAN OR PARBISIAN : area, 26,569 acres, or 41·51 square miles ; 39 estates ; 120 villages ; land revenue in 1849. £1985, 10s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s.6d. an acre ; the revenue of the present *pargana* is returned by the Board of Revenue's Statistics at only £299, 16s. 0d. ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 14,040. A temporarily settled *pargana* ; the settlement expired in 1872, and a fresh one is now (1873) in progress of formation.

(23) BRAHMNBHUM : area, 61, 574 acres, or 96·21 square miles ; 23 estates ; 572 villages ; land revenue, £2545, 16s. 0d., or an average assessment of 10d. an acre ; principal villages, Amanpur and Maumani ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Bagri ; estimated population, 38,475. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(24) CHAK ISMAILPUR : area, 11,818 acres, or 18·46 square miles ; 5 estates ; 60 villages ; land revenue, £525, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 10½d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 4475. The principal produce of the *pargana*, which is permanently

settled, is rice and sugar-cane ; the land, however, is low, and exposed to inundation.

(25)CHANDRAKONA : area, 10,227 acres, or 15.98 square miles ; 107 estates ; land revenue, £8974, 6s. ; average rate of assessment, 17s. 6½d. per acre ; principal towns, Chandrakona and Ghatal ; Subordinate judge's Court at Ghatal. The *pargana* is permanently settled, and contains an estimated population of 31,272 souls.

(26)CHIARA : area, 24,993 acres, or 39.05 square miles ; 2 estates ; 76 villages ; land revenue, £35, 12s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment 1½d. an acre ; principal village, Chirara ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population 7335. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(27) CHITWA : area, 68,413 acres, or 106.89 square miles ; 74 estates ; 712 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £13,800, 16s. 0d. ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £14,144, 8s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 4s. 11½d. per acre ; principal villages, Daspur and Rajnagar ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 94,765. Mr. Bayley states that *pargana* Chitwa was originally a part of the Bardwan District, and was settled with the Bardwan Raja at the time of the Decennial Settlement. It was transferred to Midnapur in 1810. In 1852 it consisted of seven estates or *mahals*, one of which was the property of the Raja of Bardwan, who let it out in *patni* ; two belonged to the Bardwan Raja's family priests and their descendents ; another, and a very valuable one, to the Midnapur family ; and one to a Mr. Abbott. Rice, sugar, turmeric, mulberry, mustard, and vegetables are the principal products of the *pargana*, which is sometimes exposed to inundation, but is tolerably secure from drought.

(28)DAKSHINMAL : area, 4014 acres, or 6.27 square miles ; 3 estates ; 32 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £368, 7s. 0d., or an average rate of assessment of 1s. 10d. an acre ; land revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £683, 10s. 0d. ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 2705. The *Pargana* is permanently settled.

(29) DANTUN : area, 24,980 acres, or 39.03 square miles ; 34 estates ; 337 villages ; land revenue, £1090, 12s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun, which is also the principal village ; estimated populatin, 16,250. Mr. Bayley states that, in 1852, this *pargana*, which is permanently settled, was in the possession of one Abhiram Chaudhri. Of this man it is said, that although many debts had been decreed against him and his family, and execution had been ordered to issue against his landed property, no creditor could find any lands for seizure ; the cultivators having such a gratitude for their landlord's kindness to them, that they all took an oath that their master's villages were not his property. In his original bonds, Abhiram, when mortgaging his estates, had passed off the villages included in them under false name, so as to prevent their identification. The fraud was so successful, that Mr. Bayley, in 1852, stated that no property could be identified, nor a decree carried out ; and instanced a case of one creditor who had been unable to put into execution a decree obtained eleven years before. Dantun is mentioned as a considerable mart for the sale of a description of cloth of mixed silk and cotton, made in the Tributary State of Morbhanj, and brought by brokers to Dantun, where it is sold. The Principal product of the *pargana* is rice of good quality, and sugar-cane ; the lands, however, lie low, and are exposed to occasional inundations.

(30) DATTAKHARUI : area, 2600 acres, or 4.06 square miles ; 1 estate ; 7 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £242, 9s. 0d., the average rate of assessment being 1s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. an acre ; land revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £1, 2s. 0d. ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Dantun and Nimal ; estimated population, 795. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(31) DATTAMUTA : area, 9807 acres, or 15.32 square miles ; 23 estates ; 66 villages ; land revenue, £801, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated populatin, 5875. The chief products of the *pargana*, Which is permanently settled, are rice and sugar-cane ; the land lies low, and is exposed to inundation from the Kaliaghai river.

(32)DHARENDA TAPPA : area, 23,474 acres, or 36·68 square miles ; 20 estates ; 158 villages ; land revenue, £466, 12s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. acre ; principal villages, Dharendra and Malancha ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 8545.

(33)DHENKIA BAZAR : area included with that of Midnapur or Bhanjbhum *pargana*, in the Board of Revenue's Statistics. Mr. Torrens' Report in 1849 returns the separate area of Dhenkia Bazar at 16,078 acres, or 25·12 square miles ; 12 estates ; 126 villages ; land revenue, £35, 4s. 0d. ; principal village, Manibgarh ; estimated population, 10,830.

(34)DIGPARUI : area, 15,666 acres, or 24·48 square miles ; 2 estates ; 69 villages ; land revenue £14, 4s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, one farthing per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 5576. The *pargana* is permanently settled, and is described as a very valuable property.

(35)DIPKIARCHAND : area, 14,273 acres, or 22·30 square miles ; 1 estate ; 66 villages ; land revenue, £94, 8s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 8435. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(36)DORO DUMNAN : area, 45,282 acres, or 70·75 square miles ; 50 estates ; 258 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £4729, 1s. 0d., or an average assessment of 2s. 1d. an acre ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £426, 14s. 0d. ; principal village, Kukrahati ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Subdivisional town of Tamluk ; estimated population, 29,435. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last thirty years' Settlement expired in 1872, and a fresh one is now (1873) in progress of formation.

(37)ERANCH : area, 43,971 acres, or 68·70 square miles ; 48 estates ; 61 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £3390, 9s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. $6\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre ;—the Board of Revenue's Statistics, however, only return the revenue of the present *pargana* at £355, 8s. 0d. ;—principal villages, Heria and Lakshmi ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Nimal and

Dantun ; estimated population, 18,685. A temporarily settled estate : the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now in course of formation.

(38) GAGNAPUR : area, 3372 acres, or 5·27 square miles ; 9 estates ; 31 villages ; land revenue, £927,18s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment 5s. 6d. per acre ; principal village, Gagnapur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 3600. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(39) GAGNESWAR TAPPA : area, 29,456 acres, or 46·02 square miles ; 21 estates ; 168 villages ; land revenue, £935, os. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 7½d. per acre ; princial village, Kesari ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 1050. The *pargana* is permanently settled. Mr. Bayley, in 1852, stated that a considerable trade and manufacture of silk was carried on in this *pargana*, which contained eight or nine hundred families of silk-weavers.

(40) GAOMESH : area, 914 acres, or 1·43 square miles ; estates included with those of Jalamuta ; I village ; land revenue in 1849, £124, 1s. 0d., or an average assessment of 2s. 8½d. per acre ;—in the Board of Revenue's Statistics, the present land revenue is included with that of Jalamuta ;—principal village, Gaomesh ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 515. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a fresh one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(41) GUMAI : area, 8663 acres, or 13 53 square miles ; 1 estate ; 15 villages ; land revenue returned at only 10s. in the Board of Revenue's Statistics ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Tamruk ; estimated population, 3050. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(42) GUMGARH : area, 66,396 acres, or 103·74 square miles ; 10 estates ; 233 villages ; land revenue, £139, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, one halfpenny per acre ; principal villages, Nandigaon and Raniganj ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nirmal ; estimated population, 30,920. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(43) **HIJILI KASBA** : area, 12,204 acres, or 19'06 square miles ; 15 estates ; 53 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £725, 4s., or an average assessment of 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per acre ; revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £74, 4s. 0d. ; no explanation of difference forthcoming ; principal village, Khejiri (Kedgerree) ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Nirmal and Dantun ; estimated population, 6245. These figures only refer to the *pargana* of Hijili ; but it may be well here to give a brief description of the general revenues and history of the whole Hijili part of Midnapur, which prior to 1836 formed a separate administration of its own. I condense the facts from Mr. Grant's Report on the Revenues of Bengal, dated April 27, 1786, and also from Mr. Bayley's ms. Report on Midnapur. The *Faujdari* (Magistracy) of Hijili, situated on the low western margin of the river Hugli, where it unites with the sea, although only 1098 square miles in extent, was of great importance as an accessible frontier, rich in grain, but still more valuable from its salt manufactures, during the time that Government retained the monopoly of salt-making. It was first dismembered from the Province of Orissa in the reign of Shah Jahan, and annexed to Bengal. At the death of the Emperor Alamgir in 1707, the *jama tumari*, or crown rent, of Hijili did not exceed £34,138, derived from 28 *parganas*, and including the salt estate of Hijili, then rated at only £4356. But at the revised assessment of Jafar Khan in 1728, the *chakla* or large Fiscal Division of Hijili, including Tamluk, was valued at a net assessment of £47,794, derived from 38 *parganas*, subdivided into the large estates of Jalamuta, Mahishadal, Tamluk, Sujamuta, and Doro Dumnán. Mr. Grant states that this *Faujdari* or Magistracy 'was made apparently for the purpose of subjecting the whole coast liable to the invasions of the Maghs, to the royal Jurisdiction of the Nawara or Admiralty fleet of boats stationed at Dacca.' Land revenue after 1765 returned at £35,193.

The first historical tradition of Hijili only goes back 370 years. It refers to the first Muhammadan ruler of Hijili, one Masnad Ali Shah, whose memory is still held in high veneration, and whose shrine at the mouth of the Rasulpur river is visited alike by Musalmans and Hindus. Masnad Ali is said to have ruled over the whole of Hijili between 1605

and 1546 A.D. A local tradition relates that the territory was obtained for him by his brother, Sikandra Pahlwan (literally 'The Mighty Wrestler') by a stratagem. It is also stated that Sikandra Pahlwan conquered the *parganas* of Kismat Sibpur and Kismat Pataspur from the Marhattas, and annexed them to his brother's kingdom of Hijili. After Sikandra's death, Masnad Ali, who was a holy man and no warrior, understanding that the Dehil Emperor had sent an army against him, buried himself alive. Another story is, that he threw himself from a rock into the sea, and was drowned. his son, Bahadur Khan, made his peace with the Emperor, and was regularly confirmed in the possession of the District in 1557 A.D. He was subsequently dispossessed of the estate, about 1564, but regained possession of it ten years later. Upon his death, which occurred in 1584, the two men who had previously caused his deposition, by complaining against him to the Emperor, had influence enough to procure grants of certain *parganas*, which, with certain trifling alterations in name and boundary, now form the private *zamindaris* of Jalamuta and Majnamuta respectively.

(44) JALAMUTA : area, 32,543 acres, or 50 84 square miles ; 7 estates ; 131 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £2829, 18s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 9d. ; land revenue of the present *paragana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £9990, 16s. 0d. ; principal villages, Krishnanagar, Narghat, Bhagwanpur, and Gopinathpur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 20,575. The thirty years' temporary Settlement of the progress of formation.

These figures refer to the *pargana* of Jalamuta only. The large estate of Jalamuta originally belonged to the local Muhammadan Governorship of Hugli. The Marhattas seized it in 1748, and retained it for twenty years, when it again reverted to its former dependence upon Hugli. It passed into the hands of the British in 1771, at which time the estate consisted of the following thirteen *parganas* : Jalamuta, Keoramal, Dakshinmal, Rakeri, Bahadurpur, Gaomesh, Naockak Bazar, Wilayat Gara, Balishahi, Birkul, Agrachaur, Mirgoda, and Bhograi. This property appears, from a genealogical table in the Collectorate, to have descended to

one Ram Chandra Chaudhri, who was *zamindar* of the estate from 1694 to 1734. After his death, his nephew Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhri held it till 1763. he was succeeded in his turn by his son Bir narayan Rai, who was the *zamindar* till 1780, when, in succession, his son Nar Narayan Rai held it till 1833. After his death, his son Rudra Narayan Rai succeeded; he died, and was succeeded by his son Indra Narayan Rai, a child of twelve years of age, having for his mother Rani Krishna Priya. From the time of the estates coming into our possession in 1771, till 1801, Jalamuta was let out in farm. In that year, Mr. Fergusson, Collector and Salt Agent of Hijili, proposed a Permanent Settlement to Raja Nar Narayan Rai, who accepted the proposal so far as regarded the three *parganas* of Bahirimuta, Bhaitgarh, and Daskshinmal. He refused to accept a Permanent Settlement for the remaining ten, and they were let out in detached farms. In 1825 a temporary Settlement of the estate was made with the Raja, and on its expiry, was continued for five more years, ending in 1833. In the last-mentioned year a great inundation took place, and in 1834-35 the estate was taken under direct Government management. The next proceeding was a temporary Settlement for three years, from 1835 to 1837. After the expiry of this period, a thirty years' Settlement was effected, and which, as above stated, expired in 1872. The principal produce of the estate is rice, vegetables, mustard-seed, betel-leaf (*pan*), and *supari* (areca-nuts).

(45)JAMBANI : area, 70,804 acres, or 110 63 square miles ; 1 estate ; 258 villages ; land revenue, £70, 12s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre ; principal village, Ghuttia ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 9405. A permanently settled *pargana* in the western jungle tracts.

(46)JAMIRAPAL : area, 6855 acres, or 10 71 square miles ; estates and land revenue included with those of Dipkiarchand ; 27 villages ; principal village, Jamirapal ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 13,258. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(47)JAMNA TAPPA : area, 3168 acres, or 4 95 square miles ; 4 estates ; 4 villages ; land revenue, £385, 8s. 0d. ; average rate

of assessment, 2s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Midnapur ; estimated population, 1135. This estate was held as rent-free subsistence (*nankar*) land, but resumed by Government at the time of the Decennial Settlement. It is situated within Kedar *pargana*, and is permanently settled. The principal products are rice, mustard-seed, sugar-cane, and mulberry.

(48) JHARGAON : area, 109,985 acres, or 171 85 square miles ; 1 estate ; 231 villages ; land revenue, £25, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, $\frac{1}{16}$ th of a penny per acre ; principal village, Jhargaon ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 15,205. Jhargaon *pargana* was originally assessed as a jungle estate with the Raja of Bardwan ; subsequently, after the Decennial Settlement, the proprietor entered into definite engagements for the estate, the Government revenue being retained at the original assessment. The *pargana* is described as a fertile one, and is permanently settled.

(49) JHATIBANI OR SILDAH : area, 155,246 acres, or 242 57 square miles ; 1 estate ; 303 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £124, 5s. 0d., or an average assessment of $\frac{3}{16}$ ths of a penny per acre ; land revenue of present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £79, 8s. 0d. ; principal villages, Sildah and Binpur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 30,165. This, and indeed all the jungle *parganas*, are very lightly assessed. The cultivators belong to the forest castes, such as Dhangars, Kurmis, Bhumis, and Santals, and are averse to steady husbandry. The estate is a very fertile one, and abounds in good ebony and *sal* trees. Indigo is also largely cultivated. It is permanently settled.

(50) JULKAPUR : area, 3611 acres, or 5.64 square miles ; 15 estates ; 34 villages ; land revenue, £475, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 2390. This *pargana*, which is permanently settled, originally belonged, together with Khandar and Batitaki *parganas*, to the Narayangarh family, and subsequently to the *Chaudhris* of Khandar. At the time of the Decennial Settlement, however,

these three *parganas* were all in the possession of Comparative small holders, and the Settlement was made with them.

(51) KAKRACHAUR : area, 7924 acres (according to Mr. Torrens), or 12·38 square miles ; 11 estates ; 33 villages ; land revenue, £358, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per acre ; principal villages, Barhari and purushottampur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 7570. This *pargana*, like Birkul, is said to have been, prior to 1500 A. D., dependent on the Orissa Tributary State of Morbhanj ; but the cultivators revolted, and one Sagar Rai was established in the *zamindari*. At the time of the Decennial Settlement, a good deal of this *pargana* was described as waste and jungle. Since then, the Decennial Settlement of it has been made permanent, the land has been well and profitably cultivated, and it is considered a good *pargana* for the investment of capital in land. As an instance of this, Mr. Bayley mentions that an estate in the *pargana*, with an assessment of only £7, was sold in 1851 for £300. The principal products are rice, pulses, cotton, mustard-seed, native vegetables, and cocoa-nuts.

(52) KAKRAJIT TAPPA : area, 2628 acres, or 4·10 square miles ; 3 estates ; 8 villages ; land revenue, £194, os. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 510. A permanently settled *pargana*, in the western jungle tracts.

(53) KALINDI BALISHAHI : area, 23,144 acres, or 36·16 square miles ; 12 estates ; 38 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £752, 13s. 0d., or an average assessment of 8d. an acre ; the land revenue of the present *pargana* is returned in the Board of Revenue's Statistics at only £158, 10s. 0d. ; Courts at Nimal and Dantun ; population, 4180. a temporarily settled *pargana* ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a fresh one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(54) KALRUI TAPPA AND KALRUI KISMAT : area, 1453 acres, or 2·27 square miles ; 2 estates ; 2 villages ; land revenue, £5, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, a penny an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 10,105 (?).

(55) KASIARI TAPPA : area, 5525 acres, or 8'63 square miles ; 2 estates ; 51 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £290, 11s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 0³/₄d. an acre ; land revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £303, 8s. 0d., or an average of 1s. 1¹/₆d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 6285. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(56) KASIARI KISMAT : area, 342 acres, or '53 square mile ; land revenue in 1849, £12, 16s. 0d., or an average assessment of 9d. an acre. This small *pargana* is not returned in the Board of Revenue's Statistics.

(57) KASIJORA : area, 76,489 acres, or 119'51 square miles ; 140 estates ; 873 villages ; land revenue, £17,192, 14s. 0d., or an average assessment of 4s. 6d. an acre ; principal villages, Pratappur and Panchkura ; Subordinate judge's Courts at the Headquarters Station of Midnapur and the Subdivisional Station of Tamluk ; estimated population, 89,260. This *pargana*, together with Shahpur, was engaged for at the time of the Decennial Settlement by Raja Sundar Narayan Rai. He fell into arrears in three years, and the property was sold in small parcels, and is still so held under the permanent Settlement.

(58) KASIJORA KISMAT : area, 26,025 acres, or 40'66 square miles ; 40 estates ; 183 villages ; land revenue, £4461, 4s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 5¹/₈d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at the towns of Midnapur and Tamluk ; estimated population, 18,875. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(59) KASIMNAGAR : area, 2556 acres, or 3'99 square miles ; estates and land revenue included with those of Mahishadal ; 13 villages, of which the principal is Lakshmia ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Tamluk ; estimated population, 3610. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(60) KEDARKUND : area, 25,019 acres, or 39'09 square miles ; 77 estates ; 65 villages ; land revenue, £2608, 10s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 2s. 1d. per acre ; principal villages, Ghoshkshira and Mundamari ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 21,605.

This *pargana*, which is now permanently settled, was engaged for, at the time of the Decennial Settlement, together with Balrampur and kharagpur *parganas*, by Bir Prasad Das, the *sadr chaudhri* or chief collecting officer of Midnapur District, who, in virtue of the office, was allowed to hold his estate at half rates. He left no issue, and upon his death, in consequence of disputes between his two wives, Government purchased the estate, and a Settlement was made under the provisions of Regulation VII. of 1822. The chief products of the *pargana* are rice, mustard-seed, sugar-cane, and mulberry. The land lies high, is exposed to danger of drought, and requires artificial irrigation.

(61)KEORAMAL : area, 2664 acres, or 4 16 square miles ; 2 estates ; 8 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £137, 8s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 0³/₈d. per acre ; the revenue of the present *pargana*, as returned in the Board of Revenue's Statistics, is only £23, 8s. 0d. ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 16,415. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in process of formation.

(62)KHALISA BHOGRAI : area, 3126 acres, or 4 88 square miles ; 3 estates ; 10 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £192, os. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 2¹/₂d. per acre ; the revenue of the present *pargana*, as returned in the Board of Revenue's Statistics, is only £3, 16s. od. ; principal villages, Depal and Belbani ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Nimal and Dantun ; estimated population, 1920. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in process of formation.

(63)KHANDAR : area, 90,841 acres, or 141·94 square miles ; 309 estates ; 1064 villages ; land revenue, £10,262, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 2s. 3¹/₈d. per acre ; principal villages, Dasgaon and Senkua ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Midnapur ; estimated population, 65,215. This *pargana* belonged to the Narayangarh family at a period long anterior to the British accession, and subsequently to the Chaudhris of Khandar ; but at the Decennial Settlement it had fallen into the hands of comparatively small holders, with whom the Settlement was made. khandar is a very fine *pargana*, held

under the Permanent Settlement, but is liable to occasional inundations from the Kaliaghai rivr. Its principal productions are rice, gram, sugar-cane, mulberry, and vegetables.

(64) KHARAGPUR : area, 28,409 acres, or 44·39 square miles ; 71 estates ; 150 villages ; land revenue, £2785, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 11½d. per acre ; principal village, Kharagpur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 19,495. This was one of the three *parganas* granted at half rates to Bir Prasad Das at the time of the Decennial Settlement, and resumed at his death, and permanently settled (*vide* Balrampur and Kedarkund). The *pargana* lies high, and is exposed to the danger of drought. Its principal products are rice, mustard-seed, potatoes, and vegetables.

(65) KHARAGPUR KISMAT : area, 1138 acres, or 1·77 square miles ; 1 estate ; 4 villages ; land revenue, £104, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 9¾d. per acre ; principal village, Changuai ; estimated population, 2004. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(66) KATSHAHI : area, 22 acres, or ·03 square mile ; 1 estate ; land revenue, £6, 18s. 0d. ; average rate of assesement, 6s. 3¼d. per acre ; estimated population, 4650. Permanently settled.

(67) KHATNAGAR : area, 43,584 acres, or 68·10 square miles ; 96 estates ; 341 villages ; land revenue, £2464, 18s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 1½d. per acre ; principal village, Beldah ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 27,735. A permanently settled *pargana*, held by small landholders. It is said to be somewhat exposed to drought, but not to be liable to inundation.

(68) KURULCHAUR : area, 27,492 acres, or 42·95 square miles ; 53 estates ; 97 villages ; land revenue, £1835, 8s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 4d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 12,250. A permanently settled and fertile *pargana*, the purchase of land in which is looked upon as an excellent investment. Mr. Bayley states that it is not exposed either to drought or inundation, and that remissions of rent to the cultivators are very seldom,

if ever, needed. Good rice crops and sugar-cane are the principal products.

(69) KUTABPUR : area, 26,873 acres, or 42'00 square miles ; 9 estates ; 534 villages ; land revenue, £4498, 18s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s 4d. an acre ; principal villages, Golgaon and Malighata ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 28,750. This *pargana*, according to Mr. Bayley, was originally settled with four proprietors, the divisions having incresed to six in 1852. The largest of these divisions, or the five-eighths share, was transferred to one Hara kumar Tagore in 1843-44. The principal products are rice, mustard-seed, sugar-cane, turmeric, mulberry, and vegetables.

(70) MAHISHADAL : area, 43,519 acres, or 67'99 square miles ; 4 estates ; 121 villages ; land revenue, £16,519, 2s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 7s. 7d. an acre ; principal villages, Mahishadal and Rathgara ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Subdivisional town of Tamluk ; estimated population, 28,345. Mr. Bayley states that Mahishadal originally formed part of *Sarkar* Maljhata. The first of the family is said to have been one Baria Rai Mahapatra, whose sixth descendant, Kalyan Rai, fell into arrears of revenue, and furnished as security one Janardan Upadhaya, who ultimately ousted him from his *zamindari*. After him came Durjan, Rameswar, Rajaram, Sukh Lal, and Anand Lal, all 'Upadhayas.' The last died in 1765, and was succeeded by Rani Janaki. This lady had no son of her own, and had formally declared her intention of adopting one Matilal panre as her heir, and the latter took the title of 'Upadhaya,' as the Rani's adopted son. Upon the Rani's death, Matilal's succession to the estate was disputed by the *diwan* of the late Rani, and it is stated that he obtained possession of the document executed by Rani Janaki adopting Matilal as her heir, and destroyed it. Matilal eventually lost his cause in all the Courts, including an appeal to the Privy Council, and Jagannath Garg was ultimately declared Raja, and succeeded to the *zamindari*. He died in 1834, and his widow succeeded as guardian and manager for her son, a minor, Ramnath Garg, who died in 1840. He was succeeded by an adopted son, Lakshman Prasad Garg, who still lived and held possession of the estate in 1852. The staple product of

Mahishadal is rice of a superior quality. At the time of the Decennial Settlement it was represented as consisting largely of waste and jungle land. Mr. Bayley states that the consequent light assessment which was then made, and the large increase of cultivation which has taken place since, together with the improved construction of the embankments, has rendered this a fine property. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(71) MAINACHAURA : area, 48,397 acres, or 75.62 square miles ; 121 estates ; 111 villages ; land revenue, £7852, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 2³/₄d. per acre ; principal village, Garhsaphat ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Subdivisional town of Tamluk ; estimated population, 28,040. The family of the Raja of Mainachaura is a very old one. Mr. Bayley, in his Ms. Report, states that the Raja in 1852 was a very intelligent and superior man, who had been brought up under the Court of Wards. 'His great-grand-father entered into engagements at the Decennial Settlement for the *pargana*, but fell into arrears of revenue after three years. It is said that the Decennial assessment was then too heavy, considering the land was so much exposed to inundation. Since then, the soil has become raised by silt ; and although it is still subject to inundation, yet, when not *over*-inundated, one year's good crop will repay four years's losses. It never suffers from drought. For instance, this year (1851-52) it has splendid crops of rice, sugar-cane, oil-seeds, turmeric, and mulberry, while the *parganas* to the west of it are suffering much from drought. When the arrears occurred soon after the Decennial Settlement, the *pargana* was settled in small portions with several petty *talukdars*. Some of these failed, and a lighter assessment was then fixed. The Raja entered into engagements for many of these small *taluks* of both classes, viz. those on the original and those on the lighter scale of assessment, but he did so under a fictitious name. Some of these fictitious holdings were discovered, and the purchases cancelled ; others are still (1852) in the possession of the Raja, and are very profitable. When the Raja was a minor, many of these *benami* purchases, besides some of his personal property, were taken possession of by his guardian and relative, a Raja of Sujamuta, for himself. The minor Raja was then married to a daughter

of the Raja of Tamluk, and one of the servants of the latter was appointed guardian and manager, upon the security of the Raja of Tamluk, but was afterwards dismissed for embezzlement. The present (1852) Raja attained his majority in 1840 A.D.'

(72) MAJNAMUTA : area, 55, 208 acres, or 86·26 square miles ; 38 estates ; 334 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £4343, 9s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 6³/₄d. an acre ; the land revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Staistics, has increased to £22,362, 12s. 0d. ; no explanation is forthcoming. The principal places in the *pargana* are the Subdivisional town of Contai (Kanthi), and the village of Athlagari ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Dantun and Nimal ; estimated population, 41,220. Mr. Bayley thus quotes the history of this property, as recorded in a letter by Mr. Crommelin, Collector of the District, and dated 31st January 1816 :—'Iswari Patnaik, the *sarkar* or house-clerk of Bhim Sen mahapatra, died leaving two sons, Jagamohan Chaudhri and Dayal Das. He was succeeded by Jagamohan Chaudhri, who died in 1633 A. D., leaving two wives, by each of whom he had two sons. His sons by the first wife were Dwarika Das Chaudhri and Rajballabh Das ; and by the second wife, Raj Kisor Chaudhri and Raghunath Rai Chaudhri. He was succeeded by his son Dwarika Das, who died in 1643, leaving two sons, Krishna Nidhi Chaudhri and Kunj Behari Rai. he was, however, succeeded by his half-brother Raj Kisor Chaudhri, who forcibly took possession of the *zamindari*, to the exclusion of the sons of the former proprietor, and held the estate till his death in 1693, when he was succeeded by his only son Bhupati Rai, who died in 1738, and leaving no son, was succeeded by his grandson, named Parbati Charan Rai. He also died without issue in 1745, and was succeeded (through the influence of Mustafa khan with the then Nawab) by Jadab Ram Rai, the grandson of Dwarika Das, the eldest son of the original proprietor of the estate. Thus, the succession, after running for three generations in the younger branch of Jagamohan Chaudhri's family, again reverted to that of the elder brother, whose rights had been forcibly withheld. Jadab Ram died in 1780, leaving a large family. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Kumar Narayan Rai, who

died in 1782, and was succeeded by his only son, Jai Narayan Rai, who died the following year, and was succeeded by his mother-in-law, Rani Sugnadhya (the second wife of his father, Kumar Narayan Rai); and on her dying in 1803, the succession became an object of contention between several parties.' The question of the disputed succession was carried into the Sadr Diwani Adalat. The Succession in the male line had become extinct; and the result of the case was, that in the female line, five grandsons and one granddaughter of Jadab Ram Rai were acknowledged as the proprietors of the estate. In 1852 the estate was in the hands of Anand Lal Rai, Nand Lal Rai, Swarup Narayan Rai, Iswar Chandra Rai, and Durga Prasad Chaudhri. The holder of the sixth share had just died without heirs, and the other proprietors were quarrelling among themselves for his share. The *pargana* is temporarily settled; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) being formed.

(73)MAJNA NAYABAD : area, 1313 acres, or 2 05 square miles; 2 estates; 8 villages; land revenue in 1849, £88, 9s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 4d. an acre; the revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, is only £10; no explanation is available; Subdivisional Court at Nimal; estimated population, 232. The *pargana* is temporarily settled; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(74)MANOHARGARH : area included with that of Midnapur or Bhanjbhum *pargana*; 2 estates; land revenue, £1, 6s. 0d.; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur; estimated population 371. Permanently settled.

(75)MATKADABAD : area, 2248 acres, or 3'51 square miles; 4 estates; 20 villages; land revenue, £168, 18s. 0d.; average rate of assessment, 1s. 6d. an acre; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun; estimated population, 12,065 (?). The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(76)MATKADPUR : area, 24,413 acres, or 38'14 square miles; 5 estates; 248 villages; land revenue, £469, 18s. 0d.; average rate of assessment, 4½d. per acre; principal village, Baita; Subordinate Judge's Court at Midnapur; estimated population, 8475. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(77) **MIDNAPUR OR BHANJBHUM** : area, including *Bahadurpur*, *Dhenkia Bazar*, and *Manohargarh*, 309, 613 acres, or 483·77 square miles ; the separate area of Midnapur *pargana* is returned in Mr. Torrens' Report of 1849 at 237,698 acres, or 371·40 square miles ; estates in Midnapur alone, 41 ; 802 villages ; land revenue of all the *parganas* in 1849, £9371, 18s. 0d., or an average assessment of 7d. an acre ; present land revenue, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £10,111, or an average assessment of 7¾d. an acre. Principal towns and places in the *pargana*, Midnapur, Pathra, Salbani, and Kespur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 83,205. Mr. Bayley states that most of the Midnapur estates, together with the whole of *Narayangarh*, *Balrampur*, *Kedar*, and *Kharagpur parganas*, originally belonged to a jungle chief called the *Khaira Raja*. His *diwan*, or Finance Minister, together with two other servants, conspired and slew their master, dividing his estates amongst themselves. The *diwan* appropriated Midnapur, and the other two took possession of *Narayangarh* and *Balrampur* respectively. A local tradition says that the *Khaira Raja*'s seven wives, upon the murder of their husband, burnt themselves, and prophesied at the funeral pile, that after the lapse of seven generations the families of the three treacherous servants would be heirless, and the property go to others. In the case of the *Balrampur* family this was fulfilled, and the descendants of the treacherous *diwan* have long been ousted from the Midnapur estate, which their ancestor seized. Repeated disputes regarding succession to the estates have occurred, the property has gradually dwindled away, and in 1851 a good deal of it had passed into the possession of the *Nawab Nazim* of Bengal. The Midnapur family, however, still held a profitable estate in *Chitwa*, together with the whole of *Narajol pargana*.

(78) **MIDNAPUR KISMAT** : area, 8528 acres, or 13·32 square miles ; 10 estates ; 80 villages ; land revenue, £1393, 2s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 3d. per acre ; principal village, *Baghrui* ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 35,700. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(79) NANKAR BALLABHPUR : area, 5498 acres, or 8·59 square miles ; number of estates and amount of land revenue included with those returned for Midnapur *pargana* (No. 77) ; estimated population, 5000. a scattered *pargana*, permanently settled.

(80) NARAJOL : area, 8997 acres, or 14·05 square miles : 1 estate ; 71 villages ; land revenue, £1332, 14s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 2s. 11½d. per acre ; principal village, Narajol ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 7755. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(81) NARANGACHAUR : area, 9199 acres, or 14·37 square miles ; 6 estates ; 65 villages ; land revenue, £256, 10s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 6¾d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 3105. The *pargana* is permanently settled.

(82) NARAYANGARH : area, 81,254 acres, or 126·96 square miles ; 6 estates ; 387 villages ; land revenue, £1964, 18s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 5¾d. per acre ; principal villages, Narayangarh, Syamalpur, and Benapura ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 37,375. A permanently settled *pargana*. Mr. Bayley states that the family of the Raja of Narayangarh counts back for twenty-four generations, and bears the titles of 'Sri Chandan' and 'Mari Sultan.' The first is a title granted by the Raja of Khurdha, and refers to the sandal-wood placed inside the idol of Jagannath ; the latter is a Muhammadan title, and means the 'lord of the road,' having been conferred by a Nawab who was travelling in this part of the country, and for whom the Raja constructed a road in one night. When Midnapur came into the hands of the British in 1760, the Narayangarh Raja assisted us against the Marhattas, and again in 1803.

(83) NARAYANGARH KISMAT : area, 5527 acres, or 8·63 square miles ; 1 estate ; 33 villages ; land revenue, £343, 2s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 2½d. per acre ; principal village, Banpatna ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 5760. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(84)NARUAMUTA : area, 33,585 acres, or 52·47 square miles ; 173 estates ; 71 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £811, 14s. 0d., or an average assessment of $5\frac{3}{4}$ d. per acre ; the revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, amounts to only £151, 14s. 0d. ; no explanation is forthcoming ; principal village, Manikjor ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 8295. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(85)NAYA ABADI : area, 1393 acres, or 2·17 square miles ; estates and land revenue included with those of Mahishadal ; 1 village ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Tamluk ; estimated population, 1552. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(86)NAYABASAN : area, 129,402 acres, or 202·19 square miles ; 4 estates ; land revenue, £379, 4s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, about three-fourths of a penny per acre ; principal villages, Mahapal and Gopiballabhpur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 36,640.

(87)NAYAGAON : area, 110,976 acres, or 173·40 square miles ; estates and land revenue included with Dipliarchand *pargana* ; 204 villages, of which the principal are Nayagaon, Kultikuri, and Jamirapal ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 16,115. This *pargana*, which is permanently settled, was annexed to the District in 1803. The Raja fled, having assisted the Marhattas against us. He had been originally a *sardar* of *paiks*, or chief of militia, among them. His son, however, entered into engagements with the British Government for the estate.

(88)ORISSA BALISHAHI : area, 5549 acres, or 8·67 square miles ; 4 estates ; 6 villages ; land revenue, £595, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 2s. 2d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 3185. Mr. Bayley gives the following history of this *pargana*, from a genealogical table of the Bhuiya family of Balishahi, running back for a period of seven hundred years. In the time of the Hindu monarchy of Orissa, the *pargana* belonged to a *khandait* or hill chief, who paid tribute to the Raja of Orissa. Failing in this on one occasion, the Raja attached the estate, and bestowed it on one Hajuli Budisakhsh in 1055 A.D. His

son succeeded him, and the estate was handed down intact from father to son for many generations till the time of one Kapuli Das Mahapatra, from whom a six *anas* or three-eighths share of the estate was wrested by his younger brother, Akuri Das Mahapatra. The remaining ten *anas* or five-eighths share remained in the elder line, and for nineteen generations passed from father to son, till in 1852 it was in the hands of Sambhu Narayan Mahapatra. The six *anas* or three-eighths share only continued intact for one generation ; for the first descendants of Akuri Das (who had himself taken the share by force from his elder brother) quarrelled over the estate upon his death, and the share was again subdivided into a four *anas* or one fourth, and a two *anas* or one-eight share, the first of which was given to the eldest son of Akuri Das, and the second to the younger son. The two *anas* share was still in the hands of the family in 1852, in the person of Indra Narayan Das Mahapatra. The four *anas* share continued to remain in the family for seven generations, and was then subdivided and sold to different parties. The *pargana* is a permanently settled one ; it is fertile and well cultivated, and the purchase of land in it was looked upon as a good investment for capital, except a part which borders on the Pichasbani *khal*, and which was occasionally exposed to salt-water inundations.

(89) PAHARPUR : area, 13,044 acres, or 20·38 square miles ; 20 estates ; 34 villages ; land revenue in 1849, £437, 13s. 0d., or an average assessment of 8d. an acre ; the revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenues Statistics, amounts to only £29, 12s. 0d. ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Nimal and Dantun ; estimated population, 5520. This is a temporarily settled *pargana*; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(90) PATASUR : area, 38,857 acres, or 60·71 square miles ; 23 estates ; 167 villages ; amount of land revenue in 1849, £3332, 14s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 8½d. per acre ; present land revenue, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, £3260, 8s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 8½d. per acre ; principal villages, Kasba and Pachet ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 19,300. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement

expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in process of formation. Mr. Bayley states that this *pargana* up to 1803 A. D. was a Marhatta estate, and was ceded by them to the English along with the Province of Orissa. The greater part of pataspur was then in the hands of a lady named Renuka Debi Chaudhrain, and this was taken over and remained under direct Government management until 1806, when it was transferred to the Hijili Collectorate, and a five years' Settlement was made with Debi Chaudhrain. She subsequently adopted one Kisori Nandan Chaudhri as her heir, but died while he was a minor. A five years' Settlement was then made with Josoda Naudan Chaudhri, the father of Kisori Nandan Chaudhri, but in the name of the latter. The father died just at the expiration of the Settlement, and the minor's elder brother was appointed manager until he should become of age. Kisori Nandan Chudhri attained his majority in 1810, and periodical short Settlements of the estate were made with him. At one of these Settlements the assessment made upon the *pargana* was higher than the proprietor would agree to, and it was consequently farmed out for three years. Subsequently Kisori Nandan agreed to take the land at the assessment which he had refused before. In 1825, Pataspur was re-transferred to the Midnapur Collectorate. Between 1833 and 1836 a detailed Settlement of the estate was made under the provisions of Regulation VII. of 1822, in which the whole *pargana* was re-measured. Kisori Nandan refused to accept the Settlement, and the *pargana* was placed under Government management till 1839, when he agreed to the Settlement at the assessment which had been fixed on the land. Kisori Nandan died in 1845, leaving an adopted son, a minor, who in 1851 was ward of the Collector of the District. Pataspur produces spring and autumn rice, sugar-cane, oil-seeds, tobacco, and a little mulberry. A Muhammadan *madrasah*, or charitable school, is situated in Pataspur, to which an allowance of fifty maunds of salt per annum, and one rupee per diem, are assigned for the support of the Muhammadan priest in charge of the institution. A grant of two hundred *bighas* of rent-free land was also assigned for the support of the institution by the Marhattas; and the endowment was upheld and confirmed by the British when the *pargana* was

transferred to us. Mr. Bayley stated in 1851, that forty pupils were then borne on the rolls of the school, but that the institution was very badly managed, and required thorough reform.

(91)PATASPUR KISMAT : area, 6694 acres, or 10.46 square miles ; 3 estates ; 21 villages ; land revenue in 1869, £365, 5s. 0d., or an average assessment of 1s. 1d. per acre ; the land revenue of the present *pargana*, according to the Board of Revenue's Statistics, amount to only £84, 0s. 0d. ; no explanation available ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 2040. A temporarily settled *pargana* ; the 'last Settlement expired in 1872., and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(92)PRATAPBHAN : area, 11,290 acres, or 17.64 square miles ; 22 estates ; 104 villages ; land revenue. £1158, 2s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 2s. 0½d. per acre ; principal village, Karui ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 8700. A permanently settled *pargana*, held by small proprietors ; principal products, rice and sugar-cane.

(93)PURUSHOTTAMPUR TAPPA : area, 7756 acres, or 12 12 square miles ; 1 estate ; 24 villages ; land revenue, £668, 0s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 8½d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 2224. A permanently settled *pargana* of small proprietors ; principal products, rice, vegetables, and oil-seeds.

(94)RAJGARH : area, 10,989 acres, or 17.17 square miles ; 30 estates ; 35 villages ; land revenue, £489, 14s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 10¾d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 5744. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(95)RAMGARH : area, 26,553 acres, or 41.49 square miles ; 5 estates ; 66 villages ; land revenue, £81, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, ¾d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 7565. A permanently settled *pargana*. The Rajas of this and the adjoining *pargana* of Lalgarrh are *bhats* (genealogists) by caste. Their ancestors are said to have been *paiks* of Midnapur, and, like other *bhats*, were employed as messengers

and news-carriers. They once conveyed the news of the birth of a son to one of the old Rajas of Midnapur, who, in return for the good news, gave the messengers the *pargans* of Ramgarh and Lalgah, and which are still held by their descendants. Ramgarh is situated in the jungle tracts of the District, and the cultivators principally belong to the forest tribes, such as Dhangars and Bhumijis. The principal products are rice, sugar-cane, and indigo.

(96) ROHINI MAUBHANDAR : area, 24,857 acres, or 38·84 square miles ; land revenue, according to Mr. Torrens' Report in 1849, £379, 3s. 0d. Not returned as a separate *pargana* in the Board of Revenue's Statistics.

(97) SABANG : area, 55,978 acres, or 87·47 square miles ; 268 estates ; 355 villages ; land revenue, £9727, 10s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 3³/₄d. per acre ; principal villages, Pingala and Gobardhanpur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 53,390. The *pargana* is permanently settled. Before our accession it belonged to the Raja of Mainachaura, who levied a quasi-tribute, not a regular revenue, from the occupiers of land there. At the time of the Decennial Settlement it was settled with small proprietors. The principal products are rice, oil-seeds, turmeric, and mulberry.

(98) SAIKA PATNA : area, 228 acres, or '35 square mile ; 1 estate ; 2 villages ; land revenue, £42, 14s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 9d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 85. The *pargana* is permanently settled, and held by small proprietors.

(99) SANKAKULIA OR LALGARH : area, 35,504 acres, or 55·47 square miles ; 1 estate ; 25 villages ; land revenue, £91, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1¹/₂d. per acre ; principal village, Lalgaharh ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 8355. A permanently settled *pargana* in the jungle tracts of the District. The principal products are rice, indigo, and sugar-cane.

(100) SHAHPUR : are, 31,959 acres, or 49·93 square miles ; 135 estates ; land revenue, £5600, 14s. 0d. ; averager rate of assessment, 3s. 6d. per acre ; principal villages, Nawada and Debra ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of

Midnapur ; estimated population 37,035. A permanently settled *pargana*. At the time of the Decennial Settlement, it was engaged for by Raja Sundar Narayan Rai. He fell into arrears three years afterwards, and the property was sold in small parcels, and still continues to be so held. The *pargana* is said to be liable to drought.

(101) SHAHPUR KISMAT : area, 5150 acres, or 8'04 square miles ; 28 estates ; land revenue, £972, 2s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Civil Station of Midnapur ; estimated population, 1365. Permanently settled.

(102) SHARIFABAD : area, 1799 acres, or 2'81 square miles ; land revenue in 1849, according to Mr. Torrens' Report, £174, 10s. 0d. ; the present land revenue and number of estates are included in the Board of Revenue's Statistics with those of Mainachaura ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 1995. The *pargana* is temporarily settled ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(103) SIBPUR OR SIPUR : area, 40,446 acres, or 63 19 square miles ; 96 estates ; 170 villages ; land revenue, £2771, 16s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 4d. per acre ; principal villages, Panchrol and Raida, Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 24,576. The *pargana* is permanently settled, and estates within it are looked upon as a good investment for capital. Mr. Bayley states that, at the time of the Decennial Settlement, it was represented as being to a great extent waste land, and was very lightly assessed in consequence. Since then cultivation has much extended, and land has become so valuable, that Mr. Bayley states that an estate paying a land revenue to Government of only £5, 4s. 0d. sold for £230. Its chief productions are good sugar-cane and rice crops.

(104) SIBPUR KISMAT : area, 1244 acres, or 1'94 square miles ; 4 villages ; land revenue in 1849, according to Mr. Torrens' Report, £157, 12s. 0d., or an average assessment of 2s. 6d. per acre ; the present land revenue and number of estates are included in the Board of Revenue's Statistics with

those of Majnamuta ; Subordinate Judge's Courts at Nimal and Dantun ; estimated population, 980. A temporarily settled *pargana* ; the last Settlement expired in 1872, and a new one is now (1873) in course of formation.

(105) SUJAMUTA : area, 28,829 acres, or 45·04 square miles ; 11 estates ; 65 villages ; land revenue, £4502, 18s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 1d. per acre ; principal villages, Kalabaria and Radhapur ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Nimal ; estimated population, 9627. The *pargana* is permanently settled. Mr. Bayley states that, in the same manner that the Majnamuta property was bestowed upon the house-clerk, and Jalamuta to the butler, of Bhim Sen Mahapatra, so Sujamuta was bestowed upon his personal attendant and man-at-arms, Gobardhan Ranja. At the time of the Decennial Settlement, one Debendra Narayan Rai was found in possession of the estate, and a Settlement was made with him. He died in 1807, and was succeeded by Gopal Indra Narayan, one of his two sons. Krishnendra, the second son, disputed his brother's succession in the Provincial Court, but subsequently withdrew his suit. Gopal Indra Narayan died in 1837, leaving two widows and a daughter, upon which the estate was taken under the Court of Wards. The daughter subsequently married Jagomohan Chaudhri, who brought a suit in the Supreme Court for possession of the estate on behalf of his wife. But, at the same time, the late Raja's agent proved that he had left an unfinished deed of adoption, and a will, desiring that his nephew, the son of Krishnendra, his younger brother, should be his heir, upon the condition of assuming his name. The Supreme Court dismissed Jagomohan's claim, and upheld the claim set up on behalf of the late Raja's nephew, a minor of 15 years of age in 1851. The principal product of the *pargana* is rice, and it is described by Mr. Bayley as a fairly profitable property.

(106) TAMLUK : area, 65,234 acres, or 101·92 square miles ; 11 estates ; 207 villages ; land revenue, £12,741, 0s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 3s. 11d. per acre ; principal places, Tamluk Subdivisional town and Keluamal village ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the town of Tamluk ; estimated population, 26,595. Tamluk originally formed a part of the 'Salt Districts'

under the Collectorate of Hijili. The following brief history of the Tamluk family is condensed from Mr. Bayley's ms. Report. Tamluk was originally a Buddhist town containing many fine monasteries, and was a large emporium of eastern trade. Although all vestiges of the Buddhistic religion have disappeared for centuries past, it is said that there are some Hindu families in Tamluk who still bury their dead after the Buddhist fashion. The names of the first five Rajas of whom there is any tradition, were Mayurdhwaj, Tamradhwaj, Hansadhwaj, Garurdhwaj, and Bidyadhar Rai. The next thirty-seven Rajas all bore the surname of Rai, but no date is given for any of them, till the 42d Raja, Bhayer Bhuiya Rai, who is said to have died in 1404 A. D. The 48th Raja, Kesab Rai, was dispossessed of his estates in 1645 by the Mughul Government for not paying his rent, and Hari Rai held it till 1654. Upon the death of the latter, the succession was disputed between his son and cousin, which was ultimately settled by dividing it into two equal shares. It so remained till 1701, when, owing to failure of heirs to one of the cousin's family, the whole estate became again united, and passed into the hands of Narayan Rai and his heirs, the representatives of the other cousin's family. Subsequently, in 1757, one Mirza Dedar Beg seized the property, and retained possession of it till 1767. It then reverted, by order of the Governor, to the widows of the dispossessed family, viz. to Rani Santoshpriya and Rani Krishnapriya ; and the adopted son of one and the real son of the other succeeded to a seven *anas* and a nine *anas* share of the estate respectively. Subsequently, in 1795, Anand Narayan Rai, the holder of the nine *anas* share, succeeded to the whole estate by a civil suit with Sib Narayan Rai, the then representative of the other branch of the family which held the seven *anas* share. Two widows of Anand Narayan succeeded, who each adopted a son, the one Lakshmi Narayan Rai, and the other Rudra Narayan. The estate was divided between these two. Constant disputes took place between them, and ultimately first one and then the other brother's share of the estate were sold. Mr. Bayley states that the *pargana* is not liable to drought. It is embanked, as a security against inundation, and is conveniently situated near the Hugli and Rupnarayan rivers for the transport of its produce, consisting

principally of rice, cocoa-nuts, mulberry, and vegetables. The *pargana* is permanently settled. See also *ante*, pp. 62-67, 185, and my *Qrissa*, vol. i.

(107) TIRPARA OR TERUPARA : area, 6629 acres, or 10·35 square miles ; 22 villages ; land revenue and estates included with those of Mahishadal ; Subordinate Judge's Court at the Subdivisional town to Tamluk ; estimated population, 3865. A permanently settled *pargana*.

(108) TARKUACHAUR : area, 28,191 acres, or 44·04 square miles ; 38 estates ; 123 villages ; land revenue, £1909, 4s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 4d. an acre ; Subordinate Judge's Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 11,970. A permanently settled *pargana*, and a valuable property, not subject to either drought or inundation.

(109) UTTAR BEHAR : area, 15,758 acres, or 24·62 square miles ; 24 estates ; 96 villages ; land revenue, £1251, 6s. 0d. ; average rate of assessment, 1s. 7d. per acre ; Subordinate Court at Dantun ; estimated population, 10,190. A permanently settled *pargana*, held by small proprietors.

The foregoing 109 Fiscal Divisions exhibit a total area of 3,141,997 acres, or 4909·37 square miles ; comprising 2917 estates ; paying a total land revenue of £215,431, 0s. 0d., with a total estimated population of 1,687,183 souls. These figures have been made up from the latest sources. Mr. Torrens' Report, dated 1849, shows a total area of 3,225,905 acres, or 5040·47 square miles ; with a land revenue of £201,440. The Board's Statistics of 1869 yield a total area of 3,095,126 acres, or 4836·13 square miles ; with a land revenue of £202,271. This sufficiently tallies with the 'current demand' of 1870, namely £202,070. The difference in the total yielded by the list in the foregoing pages, as compiled by me from the latest sources, chiefly arises from the transfer in 1872 of the two *parganas* of Barda (No. 16) and Chandrakona (No. 25) from Hugli District to Midnapur. The area thus added amounted to 63,073 acres, or 98·55 square miles ; and the land revenue to £14,484. Adding these to the totals yielded by the Board of Revenue's Statistics of 1869, the result show 3,158,199 acres,

or 4934·68 square miles ; and a land revenue of £216,755. The actual totals yielded by my list are 3,141,997 acres, or 4909·37 square miles ; and a land revenue of £215,431. The difference in these results is chiefly due to petty transfers from Midnapur to Balasor, and to the fact that a corner of Chandrakona *pargana* was already in Midnapur District in 1869. It will be seen, therefore, that although serious discrepancies exist as to individual *parganas*, from the uncertainty of their boundaries, the aggregate of all the *parganas* in the District discloses a fairly uniform result as to area and land revenue. The Surveyor-General now (1873) returns the area of the District at 5082 square miles. The Board of Revenue, in a special return furnished to me, returns the number of estates at 2808, and the current land revenue demand in 1870-71 at £202,070. The Census of 1872 returned the total population at 2,540,963 souls.

METEOROLOGICAL ASPECTS. THE CYCLONE of 1864.—The most important feature in the recent meteorological history of Midnapur was the cyclone of 1864. The following paragraphs regarding the effects of the storm on this District are condensed from official documents published in 1866, and from the Bengal Administration Report for 1864-65. A further description of this great atmospheric disturbance, showing its effects over the whole province, will be given in my General Account of Bengal.

The gale had its origin in the vicinity of the Andaman Islands, and, travelling northwards and westwards, first struck Bengal on the Balasor coast and Hijili. In the southern and eastern parts of Midnapur, which lie on the sea, and were exposed to the full force of the storm-wave, the effects were most disastrous. The storm commenced at Contai (Kanthi) early in the morning of the 5th October, and increased steadily till $\frac{1}{4}$ to 9, when it was at its height. Between 8 and a quarter to 10 the aneroid barometer fell from 28.95 to 28.025, and remained at that point till 11, during which interval the centre of the cyclone was passing over the station. At $\frac{1}{4}$ to 10 the wind lulled almost to a calm. At 11 the storm recommenced, the wind coming from the south-west, and raged for an hour with intense violence. By 12 the barometer had risen to 28.125, and

shortly afterwards the gale came nearly from the west. By 2 it had moderated, and the barometer had risen to 29° 40.

At Cowcolly, which is situated about thirteen miles to the east and four miles to the north of Contai, the Lighthouse Superintendent thus describes the hurricane :— 'About 5 A.M. of the 4th the wind commenced blowing a stiff breeze from north-north-east, which continued the greater part of the day ; at the close of the day the wind fell, and kept so till midnight, after which it increased again. At 3 A.M. of the 5th there was a dead calm, which lasted for an hour ; after that it began to blow again in frightful puffs, with a lull between. This lasted till daylight, when it began to blow very heavily from the north-east, with a driving rain ; and at 7 A.M. it was blowing a hurricane, which increased in violence every moment. About 9 A.M. a thick scud or spray obscured everything. A little after 10 A.M. there was a sudden lull. This was of short duration ; for in the course of a few minutes it was blowing as heavily from the east, the wind having shifted during the lull. At 10.30 A.M. the storm-wave broke over, sweeping everything before it. This continued without any intermission untill 3 P.M., when the wind moderated a little, and suddenly shifted to the south-west ; from this quarter it blew with equal fury till 4 P.M., driving a large quantity of water before it, with human beings and cattle intermingled. It was impossible to render any assistance at that time ; but about 5 P.M., when it became quite calm and clear, and the water could be waded through with safety, although it was still waist-deep, and rushing with some force through the gaps in the embankments, I saved nine poor creatures who were clinging to the roots of upturned trees. . . . After 5 P.M. there was only a light breeze, still from the south-west, which continued throughout the night. The night was bright and starry.' The town of Tamluk is situated on the banks of the Rupnarayan, 37 miles north by east from Contai. Here the hurricane reached its height about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 A.M. on the 5th, when the storm-wave came in, the water rising thirteen feet just after the wave had passed, and continuing to rise steadily till noon, when the centre of the cyclone passed over the station. The central calm was about half an hour in passing, and then the wind changed to due west, driving back the water. In two or three hours the wind perceptibly

decreased, and by 6 P.M. it was merely blowing fresh from the westward. From Tamluk the gale travelled rapidly northwards, and burst furiously on Kaila Ghat, 11 miles north by west of the former place, a few minutes after 12, when the storm-wave came in, the top of the wave being only two or three feet lower than the top of the embankment. The central calm reached Kaila Ghat between 1 and 2 P.M.

The height of the storm-wave varied. On the southern coast it nowhere attained any extraordinary height, and did not to any appreciable extent breach the sea face of the great dyke of Hijili. The wide mouth of the Rasulpur river, however, was a door to the water ; and although its principal creeks are all embanked, a large area of land behind Contai was flooded. As the wave was forced up the narrowing estuary of the Hugli, its height and force increased. At Cowcolly the wave came in two hours before high tide, and rose 16' 48 feet above high-spring level, and 6 feet 4 inches above the top of the embankment, sweeping over the country within, and carrying away everything in its path. Higher up the river, at the mouth of the Haldi, the height of the wave was ten feet above spring-tide level, and overtopped the embankment for several feet along a length of eighteen miles. At Tamluk, the water poured in irresistible volumes over the embankment, which it topped to a depth of $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet, sweeping away a row of masonry houses inside, and scooping out the foundations. At exposed points, the first intimation the people had of the inundation was their being carried away by the wave. At Kaila Ghat, it entered the Kaila Khal in a vast mass, sweeping up parallel to the metalled road, and topping it for several miles up. The height of the inundation decreased gradually towards the interior, and the flood did not extend beyond Siddha, an inland village of *pargana* Kasijora. From the mouth of the Rupnarayan, as far as Kaila Ghat, the inundation extended inland for an average distance of nine or ten miles. Below the mouth of the Rupnarayan, the inundation was more extensive and generally more severe, as the waters from the estuary of the Hugli swept over the low-lying promontory of Doro Dumnán and Mahishadal, and up the wide channels of the Haldi and Rasulpur rivers.

The loss of life and property was very great. In the low-lying *pargana* of Gumgarh, for example, it was estimated at three-fourths of the total population. In a case of gang robbery from the neighbourhood of Nandigaon (a police station in Gumgarh *pargana*), and which had been committed of the Sessions with thirty-two witnesses, the police reported after the cyclone that only two of them were forthcoming. The post office of Khejiri (Kedgerie) was totally destroyed, and the postmaster and his family were washed away and drowned. No returns were submitted from Southern Hijili, although the loss of life in that locality must have been very great. Colonel Short, in a report on Southern Hijili after the cyclone, states :—"The fury of the cyclone caused a fearful destruction in the villages to the interior ; indeed, the raised plateaux on which many stood were swept clean, and the consequent misery must have been very great. It appears that the people, believing the lull in the storm to be the sign of its having passed over, proceeded to bring in their cattle, and whilst so engaged they were overtaken by the waters, which, topping the lowest part of the dyke or entering through the breaches, drowned man and beast ; while many, standing on the high ridges separating the fields, were, during the height of the cyclone, literally swept into the water and drowned. A small isolated circuit of embankment bordering on the Rasulpur river encloses about half a square mile of cultivated land in the midst of the salt lands to the rear of the second line of sand-hills. Over this the wave swept unimpeded ; and "all within the circuit, including cattle, must have been carried away, surrounded as they were by a sea breaking six or eight feet high over the land, and lashed by the cyclone." In Bahirimuta, outside the embankment, a terrible destruction spread over an area of 56 square miles ; the devastation being here greater than inside the embankment, as the villages are larger, more numerous, and better populated.' Excluding the large tracts from which no returns of loss of life were received, the ascertained deaths caused by the cyclone in Midnapur District are reported as follow :— Gumgarh, 8159 actually counted ; Aurangnagar, 106 reported ; Kasba Hijili, Par Bisian, and Eranch—estimated loss, 8000 ; Doro Dumnun—estimated loss, 10,000 ; Kasimnager, 686 actually reported ; Mahishadal,

3740 actually reported ; Tirpara, 132 reported ; Gumai, 23 reported ; and Tamluk, 2166 reported. This return gives a total of 33,012, exclusive of that in Southern Hijili, and the *parganas* of Dattakharui, Kismat. Pataspur, and Naruamuta, where the loss of life is known to have been heavy ; and of that in Sujamuta and Jalamuta, where it was comparatively slight. The returns for Tamluk are also imperfect.

The number drowned or killed in the storm, however, by no means represents the total loss of life caused by the cyclone. The immediate losses were equalled, if not exceeded, by the deaths caused by the famine and pestilence (cholera, dysentery, and small pox), in a great measure the consequence of the inundation. The prompt steps taken by the Calcutta public by Government and its local officers, and by many private persons, to send supplies of food and clothing, alleviated the pressure of famine after a few days. But the putrid vegetation and unburied bodies and carcases which for many weeks lay strewn over the country, and the consumption of bad food and impure water, were evils less easy to deal with. These fertile causes of disease acted on a people already under severe mental prostration from the loss of their relations and property, and proved more fatal than the deluge which had first overwhelmed them. The prejudices of the agricultural classes against touching a dead body were so strong as to be proof even against the dictates of self-preservation. The predacious animals, such as jackals, vultures, etc., had been destroyed in the storm, and bodies lay strewed over the country for many weeks after the cyclone. Mr. Montresor, the Commissioner of the Division, reported that 'almost entire villages have been depopulated from those awful scourges, cholera and smallpox ;' and Mr. P. Dickens, Assistant Magistrate of the District, in a letter dated the 11th December, states that 'sickness is fearfully on the increase. Cholera is spreading, and has attacked almost every village. Five or six persons died here last night ; and in one small village I visited, containing a population of 150 souls, 40 deaths were reported.' Again, on the 13th December : 'I find the people exceedingly apathetic in applying for relief ; this I attribute chiefly to the lamentable amount of sickness.' The Superintendent of

Cowcolly Lighthouse, in a latter dated 7th December, stated that 'the unfortunate inhabitants are dying by scores every day, from a disease very similar to cholera, brought on by using the water of this place, Every tank, pond, and well is stagnant with decaying matter, both animal and vegetable, besides containing a large admixture of salt water. I cannot accurately state the loss of life, but I am afraid the fatal malady has carried off more than the cyclone. There is utter desolation every where. Scarcely a human being is to be seen. The paddy, now ripe, is left in the fields for the cattle to destroy. When I asked any one the reason of this. the answer always was, "Who is to eat it?" The deaths by sickness in the cold weather months, and which must in a great measure be attributed to the cyclone, are returned for the under-mentioned *parganas* as follow :— Gumgarh, 5734 ; Aurangnagar, 830 ; Kasba Hijili, Par Bisian, and Eranch, estimated about 6000 ; Kasimnagar, 496 ; Mahishadal, 4243 ; Tirpara, 515 ; and Gumai, 526 : total, 18,344, exclusive of the mortality in southern Hijili and the *parganas* of Dattakharui, Kismat Pataspur, Naruamuta, Sujamuta, Jalamuta, Tamluk, and Doro Dumnán. On the whole, the deaths by sickness are estimated to have been equal to those caused by storm and flood ; making a total of at least 65,000 ; exclusive of the tracts not reported upon.

The loss of crops in the inundated tracts was not so serious as might have been expected. Happily the water drained off from a great portion of the land very quickly, and the deposit of salt did not destroy the rice. The land was soaked with fresh water at the time, and was therefore less liable to be impregnated with the salt water poured over it than it would have been during the dry season. The Magistrate of the District, in a report on the subject, states that had the cyclone occurred in March or April, the productive powers of the land, wherever the salt water had reached it, would have been destroyed for the next three years. Even as it was, in parts where the water did not at once drain off, the crops were greatly injured ; and in *parganas* of Bhograi (since transferred to Balasor District), Khalisa Bhograi, and Gaomesh, the loss

was estimated at one-fourth of the whole. In Gumgarh, Doro Dumnán, and Mahishadal the loss was worse, scarcely one-fourth of the crop being saved. Next to the loss of life, was the loss of private property in the shape of cattle and houses. The loss of cattle is estimated to have amounted to three or four times that of human life. The numbers reported for the following seven *parganas* were as under :— Gumgarh, 25,267 ; Aurangnagar, 231 ; Kasimnagar, 2772 ; Mahishadal, 16,573 ; Tirpara, 386 ; Gumai, 299 ; Tamluk (returns imperfect), 2384. Total ascertained, 47,912 ; besides Southern Hijili, and the *parganas* of Kasba Hijili, Par Bisian, Eranch, Dattakharui, Kismat Pataspur, Naruamuta, and Doro Dumnán, where the losses are known to have been very considerable, but from which no returns were received ; and Jalamuta and Sujamuta, where the losses were comparatively small. With regard to the destruction of houses, it is reported that in Tamluk, out of 1400 houses, only 27 remained standing after the storm. This locality lay in the centre of the cyclone, and had to endure the climax of the gale. At many other places, however, an equal proportion of houses was blown down. Government also suffered serious loss, by damage to the embankments ; by numerous large salt stores being blown down, and their contents washed away ; by the destruction of public buildings ; and lastly, by the remissions of revenue which it was necessary to make to the landholders in the inundated tracts.

RELIEF MEASURES for the homeless and starving peasantry were set on foot the moment the news of the distress reached Midnapur town. The European and Native gentlemen of the station immediately started a subscription, and placed the amount realized in the hands of the Magistrate, who, in concert with the Police Superintendent, forwarded supplies to the sufferers along the Ulubaria road, and to Tamluk. A portion of the fund thus raised was also placed at the disposal of the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Tamluk and the Deputy Magistrate at Contai. Relief Committees were formed at the two latter places under the superintendence of the local Officers ; and relief, so far as the limited means at their disposal would allow, was at once distributed.

A large public meeting was also held in Calcutta a few days after the catastrophe, and a subscription set on foot which raised upwards of £30,000 for the relief of the sufferers by the cyclone generally. Government relief was also liberally afforded, and Mr. D. J. M 'Neile was appointed to officiate as a Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the 24 Parganas and Midnapur, to proceed in charge of the supplies, and to remain in the distressed Districts with a view to direct the operations of relief. In the vicinity of Tamluk, the distress felt by the people after the cyclone was not found to be very great. Stores to the value of £100 were at once sent to Tamluk, with the intention that they should be distributed gratuitously. It was found, however, that the people were quite able and willing to pay for them, and that the distress at first existing was due in the main to the washing away of the bazar, with the stores in it, and the temporary inaccessibility of the other supplies. Labour, too, was urgently wanted for municipal purposes, by the merchants and shopkeepers, for rebuilding their houses, and by the Irrigation Canal Company, who sent large supplies of grain to their works, and were ready to give employment to all who wished it. The sum which the Magistrate had at his disposal from private local charity was quite equal to what was required at the time. When the operations under Mr. M 'Neile commenced, Tamluk required no assistance. In the tract between Kukrahati and the Rasulpur river great distress was experienced, the country being difficult of access, owing to all the boats having been washed away by the cyclone. Steamers with stores were despatched down the river, and depots were established at Kukrahati, Baliaghata, and Khejiri. The system of village relief adopted by the Assistant Magistrate was as follows :—Tickets were given to each distressed village for relief at the nearest depot, the villagers naming one person to receive the stores, who pledged himself to give the supplies he received, only to those who were physically unable to work, or who were unable to obtain it. The articles distributed as charity consisted of food, clothing, and agricultural implements. Relief was continued up to the end of December 1864.

The northern and western parts of Midnapur District were not much affected by the cyclone. At Garhbeta, in the north of the District, the storm was but slightly felt ; and no damage is said to have been done to the Police Stations of Salbani, Bhimpur, Gopiballabhpur, and Dantun. At Kespur, Narayangarh, and Raghunathpur, the damage was also inconsiderable. At Midnapur town the storm was violent, and indeed was so all over the eastern part of the District.

THE CLIMATE of Midnapur is similar to that of the adjacent District of the 24 parganas on the opposite side of the Hugli, and the District of Hugli to the north. The average mean temperature is about 80° ; and the rainfall 65·84 inches. The Meteorological Department thus returns the monthly rainfall at the Civil Station of Midnapur in 1871 :—January, *nil* ; February, 0·15 inch ; March, 7·34 inches ; April, 3·34 inches ; May, 9·46 inches ; June, 8·44 inches ; July, 12·39 inches ; August, 14·95 inches ; September, 12·34 ; October, 3·61 ; November and December, *nil*. Total rainfall for the year, 72·02 inches, or 6·18 inches above the reported average of the previous six years.

MEDICAL ASPECTS.—The prevailing diseases of Midnapur District are fevers, diarrhœa, dysentery, and cholera. Hepatitis is also frequently met with. Fever generally prevails in the months of October and November ; the varieties most commonly met with being the quotidian-remittent and the bilious-remittent. Bilious varieties of fever have commonly a malarious origin, and a special tendency to relapse. Diarrhœa occurs chiefly in the months of March and April, and of August and September ; the variety most commonly observed being bilious diarrhœa. Cholera is said to be endemic in the town and District, especially during the hot season. The Civil Surgeon reports that little or no improvement has taken place in the sanitary condition of the town or District of late years, and states that he is not aware that the character of the diseases has undergone any change.

EPIDEMICS.—The epidemic history of the District commences from the year 1860, but is very imperfect, the scanty medical records of the jail hospital being the only sources from which

the Civil Surgeon has been able to gather a brief account of past epidemics. In 1860, cholera broke out in a severe epidemic form in the jail and throughout the town ; 140 cases occurring in the jail, of which 66 proved fatal. No information is procurable regarding the extent to which it prevailed in the station, the time when it commenced, and the period during which it lasted, the number of people who were attacked, or the proportion which recovered. In March 1861, 15 cases occurred in the jail, of which 5 proved fatal. In 1863 and 1864, epidemic cholera is said to have prevailed in the town and surrounding country, but the jail escaped the infection. In 1866, cholera occurred epidemically twice. The first outbreak commenced about the beginning of January, in the south of the District and travelled northwards towards the station of Midnapur, where it made its appearance early in February, and attacked the jail on the 12th of the same month. Forty-two cases occurred in the jail hospital, of which 23 terminated fatally. The second epidemic of the year commenced suddenly in the month of June, breaking out simultaneously in the town and several other parts of the District. The outbreak terminated as suddenly as it had commenced, a heavy fall of rain of three days' duration taking place about the time the disease finally ceased. Both the epidemics of 1866 committed fearful ravages among the population, then also suffering from famine. The pestilence was believed to arise in a great measure from the tainted atmosphere, which was poisoned in almost every village by dead bodies. Epidemic cholera also occurred in 1868 and 1869. Police returns mention 1605 cases as having occurred in 1868, of which 1273 terminated fatally. The Civil Surgeon states that the measures generally adopted on an outbreak of cholera among the prisoners in the jail are as follow :— (1) The removal of the prisoners from the jail building for some time ; (2) the free use of disinfectants ; (3) change of diet, such as the substitution of *dai*, or curds, for *dal*, or pulse ; (4) the burying of all excreta, and segregation of the prisoners when possible ; (5) attention to the cooking of the food and the quality of the water supplied to the prisoners. Cholera, as seen in Midnapur, exhibits no striking characteristics different from its type in other Districts. As elsewhere in Lower Bengal, it generally makes its appearance

during the hot and dry months of the year, when the atmosphere is stagnant and hazy. The great high road to the temple of Jagannath crosses the District, and the crowds of pilgrims who pass along it on their way to and from the shrine are popularly blamed for importing the disease.

SMALLPOX.— A fearful epidemic of smallpox visited the station in 1866-67. The disease made its appearance in October 1866, amongst the wretched famine-stricken population. It increased in November, and was at its height in December and January. In the month of March 1867 it assumed a milder form, gradually subsiding in April, and ceasing altogether in May. No statistics exist showing the number of people who were attacked, or the proportion which recovered. Inoculation was extensively practised at that time, and is said to have greatly intensified the outbreak. Inoculation is now prohibited within the town of Midnapur.

EPIDEMIC FEVER, of a similar character to that raging in Hugli and Bardwan, has also made its appearance in Midnapur District. In December 1872 it had assumed so serious a type, that a special report was called for by the Government of Bengal. A more detailed account of this fever, both from the engineering and medical points of view, will be found in my Statistical Account of Hugli District. I confine myself here to reproducing the reports of the Magistrate and Civil Surgeon of the District, upon the fever as it has exhibited itself in Midnapur. The Magistrate, in a letter dated 9th May 1873, writes thus :—

‘To understand precisely the circumstances of the affected area, (1) its physical characteristics and (2) the comparative density of the population should be clearly realized. The first characteristic feature of the District is the laterite soil extending over the north-west and north of the District. This is, of course, the highest land ; and as the country there almost uniformly consists of alternate ridges and depressions, the drainage is complete.

‘From this table-land, however, the District by no means slopes away regularly towards the south or south-east, as might be expected. Headed by the laterite near Midnapur

town, a valley starts in an eastern or even north-eastern direction towards the Rupnarayan river above Kaila Ghat, which at its eastern end embraces, relatively to the surrounding drainage, the lowest land in the District.

‘It has long since been pointed out that, owing to the embanking system, the rivers, when they once get into the low level plains of the delta, are no longer the depressions, but the elevations, of the country : hence it is the simple truth to say, that this valley is bounded by the range of the Kasai river on the south, and that of the Silai on the north. A little above Panchkura, the Kasai, as is well known, was diverted some hundred years or more ago from its proper course, and carried southwards along what the people still call the *Naya Katan*, or new cut, by which it makes its way into the Haldi. Were it allowed to pursue the natural course which the levels of the country indicate, it would continue to be the boundary to this valley till it fell into the Rupnarayan above Kaila Ghat. Almost opposite to this southward deflection of the Kasai, the Silai turns in a north-western direction ; and thus the valley opens out on both sides, embracing the whole of Pargana Chitwa (which is identical with Thana Daspur) on the north, and almost the whole of Pargana Kasijora to the south. Even here, however, singular as it may seem, the slope is rather towards the north-east than to the south east ; this will be understood in a moment, from the single fact that the tides reach above Ghatal on the Silai, while they do not reach Panchkura on the Kasai. It naturally follows, that in the rains this valley becomes more or less a lagoon. Even at the longitude of Nawada it has been found impossible to maintain a road across to the Silai or to Ghatal, important as such a road would be ; while a little lower down, *i.e.* farther east, notably in Pargana Chitwa and round Ghatal itself, the people do not look to the autumn for their crop, but have introduced a vast system of irrigation in the cold weather, which is only feasible on account of the extreme depression of their country.

‘Though the species of valley described is immediately bounded by the embankments of the Silai and Kasai, the

general depression passes beyond these rivers, and is found again on the other side. This is most conspicuously the case with the Silai, which forms a loop, the southernmost point of which is a mile north of Narajol. Within this loop the country lies very low up to the latitude of Khirpai ; while south of Nawada the low-lying country extends along the line of the Kerai (a drainage *khal* over which the highlevel canal is carried by an aqueduct) down to Pingala, and southwards till it mingles with the saline tract. Dividing the District, as it may not inaccurately be divided, into (1) laterite, (2) alluvial but littoral and saliferous, (3) alluvial and non-littoral, the latter may be regarded as forming a rough triangle, the base of which is the Rupnarayan from Tamluk to Ghatal, and the apex the town of Midnapur, or, more accurately, a point some six miles south-west of it.

I next propose to show how the population of the District is distributed over these three areas.

	Area Square Miles	Population.	per square mile
LATERITE THANAS.			
Bhimpur,	467	74,271	159
Jhargaon,	169	45,566	269
Gopiballabhpur,	516	120,310	233
Garhbeta,	437	145,264	332
Salbani,	207	50,860	246
BORDER THANAS, <i>i.e.</i> LATERITE ALLUVIAL			
Midnapur,	361	172,672	478
Kespur,	229	108,929	476
LATERITE LITTORAL.			
Narayangarh,	300	129,553	432
LITTORAL.			
Dantun,	217	112,372	518
Raghunathpur,	126	54,579	433
Contai (Kanthi),	226	122,857	544
Egra,	122	57,898	475
Pataspur,	117	81,123	693
Bhagwanpur,	184	89,812	488
Khejiri,	75	36,003	480
Nandigaon,	158	108,827	689
Sutahata,	111	53,546	482
Maslandpur,	111	64,188	578
LITTORAL ALLUVIAL.			
Sabang,	283	214,755	759
Tamluk,	77	77,341	1004
ALLUVIAL.			
Chandrakona, three-fourths alluvial	121	106,480	880
Ghatal,	91	102,742	1129
Daspur,	104	136,359	1311
Debra,	109	110,747	1016
Panchkura,	164	163,915	999

The above figures show conclusively that the density of the population closely follows the character of the soil. The purely laterite *thanas* have a population varying from 159 to

332 per square mile, the purely littoral from 433 to 693, the purely alluvial from 880 to 1311 ; this last being Daspur, which, as already explained, is the pit of the alluvial section, while 880 is Chandrakona, the northern portion of which is high ground branching off from the laterite, and somewhat undulating, though not jungly or stony. The mixed *thanas* strictly conform to the same rule, the laterite littoral showing an average population of 432 to the square mile, laterite alluvial of 477, littoral alluvial of 810. Generally, therefore, the District may be classified into—(1) Laterite, with an area of 2200 square miles, and a population of 250 to the square mile ; (2) Littoral, with an area of somewhat under 200 square miles, and a population of 550 to the square mile, under which head I include all lands within 40 miles of the sea dyke ; (3) Alluvial, with an area of 1000 square miles, and a population of 1150 to the square mile. It is only into a portion—but the most alluvial and the most densely populated portion—of this latter section that the fever has yet spread ; and if Dr. Mathew's account of its progress is carefully examined in the map, it will, I think, appear that, though in many respects capricious in its action, it has not yet passed into any other tract, while it has deflected from its more natural line of progression from Hugli and Jahanabad westwards, and chosen a southerly and south-westerly direction, preferring the alluvial soil, and more particularly the depressed valley in the centre of it. It only remains to say, that from the Kasai as from a high-level canal, natural channels, acting as distributaries, thread this valley between the two rivers ; some of them joining the branches of the Silai, others serving as the streams for irrigating Daspur in the cold weather. It has been frequently reported to Government on the irrigation side, that in the cold weather the main branch of the Kasai is dammed up by a *bandh* at Kapasdigri, in accordance with a prescriptive right of the zamindars, so as to conduct the water into these channels. The natural drainage of this valley is north into the Silai through sluices, which, as Dr. Mathew states, are very defective, and west into the Rupnarayan also through sluices, *not* south into the Kasai.

With this preliminary description of the character of the soil and population, I now extract Dr. Mathew's account of the premonitory threatenings of the epidemic previous

to 1872 :—"Before proceeding to describe the outbreak of epidemic fever that has taken place in certain quarters of this District during the past year, I purpose to briefly allude to the health of the District, with reference to the prevalence of fever, during the period over which my residence extends. Shortly after my arrival here in August 1869, I heard that a fever, closely resembling the epidemic which during that season was causing terrible loss of life in Bardwan, had made its appearance along the line of country lying between Chandrakona and Ghatal (at that time a portion of the Hugli District); but the disease spread no farther during that season, and the health of that portion of the Midnapur District bordering on the above-mentioned line of country was very fair during the autumn and cold season of 1869. During the months of August, September, and October 1870, malarial fever was widely spread over the alluvial tracts of Midnapur. The country bordering on Hugli suffered in common with other localities, such as Tamluk and the country forming the seaboard.

‘ “I visited Tamluk and the surrounding villages in the October of that year, and found that the disease was nothing beyond an aggravation of the fever usually attendant on the rainy season. It caused little or no mortality, although numbers of those attacked suffered from enlargement of the spleen, and the other sequelæ of intermittent fever. On my return from Tamluk, the police reported that fever was very prevalent and fatal at Garhbeta and in the low-lying quarters of Bagri Pargana ; and dreading that the epidemic fever which had just then broken out at Jahanabad had advanced to Midnapur, I proceeded at once to Garhbeta, and after visiting several large villages in Bagri, I travelled to Ghatal *via* Chandrakona and Khirpai. During the trip I saw many scattered cases of fever ; but the type of the disease differed in no perceptible way from the disease I had seen at Tamluk, and I accordingly reported to the Magistrate that there were no grounds for the alarming reports that had reached him regarding the state of the public health ; and as the cold season advanced, those who had been attacked regained their usual health. No more was heard of the disease until October 1871, the police then reporting that fever had broken out and was

causing many deaths at a place called Nawada, a large village on the southern bank of the Kasai river, about 18 miles to the east of the Midnapur town. I visited the place early in November, and found that a fatal type of intermittent and remittent fever had broken out some two months before, and that, out of a population of about 4000, some 70 deaths had taken place.

‘ “The surrounding villages, although subject to the same general insanitary influences, were comparatively healthy, although I now believe that the disease was more widely spread and fatal during the latter months of 1871 than was suspected at the time. I found two native doctors in practice in the place. They stated that the disease was at its height during the latter part of September and the first three weeks of October. They had seen several cases of malignant remittent fever, but this was during the first outbreak ; the type of the disease subsequently changing to the intermittent with the usual sequelæ. During the months of November and December the health of the people improved ; and when I visited the place early in the following January, I found that no deaths from either fever or its results had taken place for several weeks, and that the people had lost in a great measure that unhealthy and anæmic appearance which had characterized them two months before. Scattered cases of fever had occurred in the surrounding villages, and I was inclined at the time to believe that their immunity from anything like an epidemic invasion was due to the fact of their having a better water supply from the adjacent river than the people of Nawada, who used for drinking purposes the water of the filthy village tanks. A subsequent paragraph will, however, tend to show how untenable the theory of the fever-producing power of impure water was in this particular instance. About the end of November 1871 the police again reported that fever had broken out along the line of country bordering on Hugli, and that it was raging with particular severity at Daspur and the adjacent villages. I arrived at the Daspur *Thana* on the 3d of December. I found that malarial fever had been prevalent for the last two months, that numerous deaths had taken place both in Daspur and surrounding villages ; and the people one and all declared that

the sickness and mortality were far in excess of any thing of which there was any record. During that trip I visited six large villages in *Thana* Daspur, and I afterwards proceeded along the Silai river to Ghatal. From inquiries instituted there and in the villages surrounding, I came to the conclusion that the epidemic fever which had prevailed at Jahanabad had advanced to the villages surrounding Ghatal, and was from thence spreading along the riverbanks to Daspur. I was greatly struck on this occasion by the unequal incidence of the disease,—not only in different villages, but in different houses in the same village ; some households suffering severely, while others, as far as could be judged, under precisely the same circumstances, escaped altogether. It is noteworthy that, during the autumn of 1871, Tamluk Pargana and that quarter of the District forming the seaboard were remarkably free from all forms of malarial disease ; and the same remark applies to the laterite country, which may be said to form roughly about one-third of the area of the entire District."

'It will appear from the foregoing,' writes the Magistrate, 'that the fever at first made a sort of attempt, such as it still makes, to extend in the natural direction westwards to Khirpai, Chandrakona, and Garhbeta,—the former alluvial, though high alluvial ; the second on the edge of the laterite, though itself on alluvial soil ; and the third in the middle of the laterite, though low-lying and surrounded by cultivation,—but that it failed to take any serious hold of those places, and then struck southwards into the low-lying, densely-populated tracts of Daspur.' Dr. Mathew thus continues the narrative for the year 1872 :—"I now proceed to describe the outbreak of epidemic fever of the autumn of 1872. During the first week in September the police reported that fever had become very prevalent and fatal at Narajol, and in several of the adjacent villages. Narajol is situated on the banks of a narrow stream which connects the Silai and Kasai rivers. On the southern bank of this stream are situated the large and scattered villages of Bhawanipur, Hiratala, Patna, Singagarh, etc., and still farther to the southward lies the large Pargana of Shahpur ; and attention is directed to these localities, as it was there the disease raged in a very deadly form from the very first. There are grounds for the belief that the disease had

been very prevalent during the months of August, and that it was not until many deaths had taken place that the attention of the authorities was directed to the matter, or indeed that of the people residing in the locality. Before the end of October, reports were received from the police that malarial fever was rife and fatal within the jurisdictions of the Chandrakona, Ghatal, Debra, and Daspur police stations. Within the jurisdiction of the latter is the town of Narajol and the villages above alluded to.

It will be thus observed, that a considerable tract of country was under the influence of the epidemic ; but the incidence of the disease was irregular, both as regards its prevalence and fatality. As a rule, the villages in which, the greatest mortality took place were those where the diseases prevailed during the previous years, *i.e.* the villages surrounding Ghatal, Daspur, and its vicinity. An exception to this, however, is to be found in those villages near Narajol, where, as before mentioned, the disease was more prevalent and deadly than in any other quarter of the District ; and yet there is no evidence to show that there was any unusual prevalence of sickness in these place during the year 1871. It will be observed that the villages of Bhawanipur, Hiratala, etc., are separated from Narajol town and bazar by a narrow stream. There was no very marked difference in the sanitary condition of those places. Perhaps, if anything, Narajol is less cumbered by jungle, and the houses are less crowded ; yet the difference in the incidence of the disease is very marked. On the 7th of November 1872, I visited 22 houses in the village of Bhawanipur ; two months previous to my visit they were occupied by 164 people ; and of those, 90 were ill at the time of my visit, and 41 had died. In Narajol I visited 69 houses, and found they were occupied by 325 people ; and of these, 132 were ill, and only 12 had died. Many other instances could be cited, tending to show how eccentric the disease has been in its progress, and I will allude to one other. It will be remembered that the village of Nawada suffered severely in 1871, and that during that season the smaller villages in its vicinity, on both banks of the Kasai river, suffered hardly at all ; yet during the past season there was little or no sickness in Nawada, but the surrounding villages had a severe

visitation of fever. It is to be hoped that they may escape next year, and that the fever from which they suffered this year was only an aggravation of the disease usually attendant on the rainy season ; but the persistence of the disease during the cold weather months, and the high rate of mortality, are suspicious ; and, moreover, they lie in the track along which the disease appears to be advancing. It is a matter of no small difficulty to distinguish between the epidemic fever in the early periods of its invasion, and the aggravated malarial fever which now and then attacks particular villages, and which seems to depend on local sanitary influences. The inhabitants of a large village named Pingla were very much alarmed during the past season on account of the prevalence of fever. It is situated some eight miles to the southward of Debra, and is within the jurisdiction of the Sabang police circle. I visited the place early in December, and carefully inspected the village. The country between it and Debra seemed fairly healthy, yet on my arrival at Pingla I found that the people had been suffering much. I saw many cases of fever, and some deaths had taken place ; but even then the worst was over, and before the end of December the health of the people had much improved, the very time when the mortality in the epidemic-stricken quarters was at its height. Ordinary malarial fever was widely spread over the District during the past season. The localities where it most prevailed will be seen by a reference to the map. The quarters of the District where there was no unusual prevalence of malarial disease are the laterite country and the country forming the seaboard. Tamluk, long regarded as the most unhealthy quarters of the District, was again healthy during the past season ; and there is a popular saying amongst the natives, and on the whole a true one, that the only quarters of the District that escaped fever during the past season were those where the soil is laterite and where the water is brackish.'

'Dr. Mathew's remarks,' continues the Magistrate, 'so strongly support the position I have taken up, that the fever manifests a marked preference for, if it does not restrict itself to, low-lying non-littoral alluvial country, that it is but right to mention that he drew up his report without any consultation with me on this point, and was quite unaware of the special

line of argument which I have followed. My own observation of the course of the fever entirely supports what the Civil Surgeon has written, and it will be observed that it again failed to make serious progress towards Chandrakona. This is the more remarkable, because, as far as population alone is concerned, Khirpai and Chandrakona probably surpass any part of the District, except the Sadr station of Midnapur, in density of population. Khirpai, owing to the artificial arrangements of the Chaukidari unions in its neighbourhood, is split into sections, and therefore does not figure high in the Census ; but the villages grouped round Chandrakona form the second largest town in the District, with an aggregate population of 22,000 ; and, so far as this cause and insanitation are concerned, it should have readily yielded to the fever. It escaped, however, as did Khirpai, with a moderate attack somewhat in excess of the ordinary malaria of the season, while the severe mortality, the traces of which struck one so painfully in passing through Daspur and Narajol, was fortunately absent.

'I am far from saying that Khirpai and Chandrakona will escape : they are only on relatively high ground, not on the laterite ; and I fear that the fever showed some slight tendency to gain ground in 1872. All I contend for is, that the epidemic seems to have experienced a marked check in this quarter, while it poured on in an unrestrained stream through Daspur towards Parganas Narajol and Shahpur. Dr. Mathew continues :—"The physical aspect of the country where the epidemic fever prevailed, present no features that call for very special mention. The affected line of country may be briefly described as a flat alluvial plain, formed of the combined deltas of the Kasai and Silai rivers, and intersected by numerous *khals*, all of which are embanked. Connecting these rivers is the stream on which the town of Narajol stands, and to which allusion has already been made." As the earlier portion of this report shows, I cannot agree with Dr. Mathew in his estimate of the non-peculiarity of the physical features of the affected tract. I think the north-east slope of the country, and the very low level of Ghatal and Daspur, as illustrated by the height of the tides, well worthy of careful attention ; but I need not again revert to the subject. He continues :—"During the rainy season the country is under rice cultivation,

and is protected from inundation by a complicated system of embankments or *bandhs*. These embankments are a characteristic feature of this part of the country, forming in many places the only high roads, and are no doubt of immense importance. I now allude to what are known as the Government embankments, which follow the courses of the principal rivers.

“ In addition to these are another series of embankments known as the *zamindari* embankments, and with reference to the utility of these structures some doubts in many instances seem to exist. It would appear that in former years each landholder made such arrangements for protecting his land from inundation as seemed to him most suitable, and running in almost every direction. These embankments certainly act as potent obstructors of the natural drainage of the country ; and it is the opinion of the engineer in charge of the irrigation works in this District, that many of them might be removed with considerable advantage. The Government embankments no doubt control the floods, and their utility, as far as I know, has never been questioned ; but there can be very little doubt that they also obstruct the drainage of the country, and that to a very serious extent. The sluicing arrangements are lamentably deficient, and only allow surface water to flow off. They are much too few in number, and are, moreover, faulty in construction ; their floors are in many instances above the level of the country, so that their utility for drainage purposes may well be questioned. I am given to understand that estimates for repairing and constructing no less than 60 sluices on one embankment alone have been prepared ; and with a system of embankments that stand in need of such all important alterations, I think it may be assumed that the surface drainage of the country is obstructed, and the subsoil water-logged. The land lying between the embankment and the river-banks is considerably higher than the country surrounding, and the deposition of silt in seasons of flood is, I suppose, the chief cause of this. In many parts of the District the mulberry is extensively cultivated along the river-banks, and, owing to the fertilizing influences of the river, thrives well.”

“To the above description I have little to add, and nothing to find fault with, unless it be the tenderness with which the

Government embankments are treated. The river-beds having been raised by the constant deposit of silt, to abandon these embankments now would no doubt involve enormous tracts in total ruin ; but it was this system of embanking which has deprived the country of its natural increment of deposit and kept it permanently depressed, while its drainage channels have gradually become irrigation channels, its waterways choked up, and the whole area waterlogged.' As regards the state of villages, Dr. Mathew writes :—

'With the exception of some scattered mango topes, there is nothing like forest land in the affected quarters of the District, and but little jungle, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the villages, which are surrounded by bamboo, plantain trees, etc. ; and during the rainy season there is, in addition, a considerable quantity of useless undergrowth. The sanitary condition of the villages, it is needless to say, is deplorably bad in every respect. Buried in jungle, studded with filthy tanks, houses crowded together and surrounded by all kinds of filth, are the most common characteristics of the villages of the District. The water-supply is contaminated, and the atmosphere laden with the gaseous products of rotting vegetation and the excreta of the inhabitants. This description applies with equal truth to villages where the fever manifested itself in its most fatal form, and where scarcely a case occurred. Every village that I have ever visited is pervaded by odours more or less offensive. Utterly regardless of very law that conduces to health, the villagers remain on year after year surrounded by all those oft-described sources of nuisance with which we are only too familiar ; and that the people not only live in such places, but increase and multiply into the bargain, is a pretty clear proof that stench *per se* will not cause disease, and that its deleterious effects on health bear no proportion to its offensiveness.

'With reference to the people and their circumstances, I have not much to remark. Comparatively, they are fairly housed, particularly in the larger villages. The better class of habitations are well raised, usually some three feet. The arrangement usually seen is a central court, with a narrow verandah running round all four sides, off which the rooms open, and which, as a rule, are only lighted and ventilated by

the doorway. The houses are kept clean, and the rooms and verandahs are regularly plastered with cow-dung and mud. The poorer classes live in small huts about 14×10 , greatest height about 12 feet. These structures are lighted and ventilated by the doorway. There is sometimes a narrow verandah in front, on which the residents sleep during the hot season. With regard to the circumstances of the people, I believe them to be moderately good. Since the year 1866 there has been no scarcity of food in the District ; and there are no grounds for the belief that, in the quarters where fever prevailed, the condition of the people in this respect has undergone change during the past three years. From a sanitary point of view, however, it may be assumed that the habits of the people, and many of their customs, the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat, are all opposed to the attainment of health or vigour ; and the only wonder is, that they possess either one or the other to the limited extent they do. In the Midnapur District at large the population is irregularly distributed. At Khirpai, within the jurisdiction of the Chandrakona Thana, the population is particularly dense. Indeed, at Khirpai, village succeeds village for nearly three miles with hardly a break, it being a matter of difficulty for the visitor to determine where one commences and the other ends.'

'Agreeing as I do entirely with all that is here written,' says the Magistrate, 'I have little to add to it. The description applies, as is well known, to all the alluvial tracts in Bengal where the drainage is choked up and the population overgrown. But if the most populated, it is also the wealthiest part of the District : whether tested by its crops, its wealth, its schools, or its castes, it ranks first. It is here that the only jute grown in the District is found ; sugarcane is grown in abundance. Nawada is the great emporium of *gur* or molasses in the District. Ghatal, again, is the wealthiest town in the District next to Midnapur ; all the traffic of the northern section passes through it. A toll at its entrance, on a very bad unmetalled road, lets for over Rs. 4000 a year. Again, the *pathsalas* that have come in under the new scheme in this neighbourhood outnumber those in the littoral tract as 3 to 1, and those in the laterite as 10 to 1. Here, too, the Brahmans and Kayasths

of the District are to be found, and the *bhadralok*, or gentlemen, are so numerous, that I have heard it said, with reference to this fever, "It is better to die in Daspur than to live in one of the jungle *mahals*. As regards the character of the fever, Dr. Mathew writes :—

‘“On this subject, officers who have had much experience of the disease are, on the whole, pretty well agreed. Quinine stands first in estimation, especially in the early stages of the disease. In remittent fever it is usual to wait for the stage of remission before administering the antiperiodic; but it appears to me there are other stages of this disease in which quinine can be administered with signal advantage, and where it would not be judicious to delay its administration pending the action of purgatives and other remedies. However, in ordinary cases of fever, when there is much bilious derangement, with nausea, etc., purgatives and diaphoretics are generally called for, and the action of quinine seems to be rendered more certain and rapid by their use. I think it was Sir Ranald Martin who praised so much a powder composed of jalap, calomel, and tartar emetic. Two grains of the latter is the dose he advocates in the treatment of the fever of natives. I saw few cases during the past two years to whom I would have administered a dose of the kind, for it is unfortunately the case that the people of this District do not apply for treatment until the time for such remedies has passed. It is, however, chronic fever and its sequelæ that we are called upon most frequently to treat. To deal successfully with these cases appears to me one of the most perplexing and difficult tasks a medical officer can undertake. The condition of such patients is truly deplorable, and calculated to arouse our liveliest pity. It is probable that, if advice and medicine were placed within the reach of these people when first attacked, a vast amount of suffering and disease would be prevented. When once the extremities become dropsical, with enlargement of the liver and spleen, remedies such as we can bring within the reach of a vast proportion of the sufferers are of little avail. The stomach appears to me to participate more fully than is usually recognised in the general degeneration the tissues are involved in; and without for a moment denying the immense importance of nutritious food in the treatment

of such cases, yet I am disposed to think that more benefit would be derived from it in the early stages of the disease, before the digestive powers have become impaired. There is, however, one article of diet that I would like to see given to these people, and that is, good milk. In a great number of cases there is bowel disorder of some kind or other, and the late Dr. Fawcus placed great reliance on milk dietary in such cases, giving but little medicine. I would feel disposed to follow his advice to a certain extent, should it ever become my duty to superintend relief operations on an extended scale for this class of people. I should certainly prefer it to meat in any shape,—an article of diet to which the poor of this District are utterly unaccustomed, and which, particularly when sick, they are not likely to digest. With reference to the treatment of chronic fever and its results, the salts of iron, combined with the mineral acids, are the class of remedies which seem to answer best. For cases of fever where enlargement of the spleen only exists, quinine with large doses of sulphuric acid are remedies which often succeed ; counter-irritation over the region of the spleen, with a weak preparation of the biniodide of mercury ointment in recent cases of fever, when no marked evidence of blood deterioration exists, is a remedy of great power. Dr. Maclean, of the Victoria Hospital, Netley, some time ago directed the attention of the profession to the use of this ointment in cases of splenic hypertrophy ; and as far as my experience goes, it seems to be well worthy of the praises bestowed on it by that officer. In cases where marked pallor of the mucous surfaces exists, as in old cases of fever, this remedy does not seem to answer, its application being frequently followed by profuse salivation. On these two points I need make no comments.” ’

‘Dr. Mathew concludes his report with the subject of causation as follows :— “On this subject I have but few observations to offer. The disease is due to the action of a poison which we call malaria for want of a better name. Notwithstanding, however, the many, and indeed probable causes that have from time to time been discussed as tending to produce the epidemic, it appears to me that their disease-producing powers have always been admitted ; and it is certainly very clear that all these conditions which are said

to produce this epidemic have existed for many years without producing any other effect on the public health except those periodic outbreaks of fever with which every European resident in Bengal is familiar, and from which every native of the country suffers at some time or other. The appearance of the disease in the laterite tracts of Birbhum clearly shows that a water-logged subsoil is not a necessary condition for its propagation. The epidemic fever, as far as I know, has not as yet made its appearance in any village in this District build on laterite soil, nor does the disease appear to be advancing in the direction of the laterite country. I regard it as an advance of the Hugli epidemic ; but by what means the disease has been introduced I am not prepared to say. The disease is not spread by human intercourse, otherwise the station of Midnapur would have been the scene of an outbreak any time since 1869. Many people suffering from the epidemic fever of Hugli and Bardwan have come to Midnapur, and never introduced the disease into the town. During the past cold weather, numbers of people from Daspur and Ghatal were treated at the charitable dispensary, many of whom are at present living in the town ; yet no outbreak of the epidemic fever has occurred. Residence in an affected locality, no matter the condition of life, gives rise to the disease, and that with a certainty that few people, no matter how strongly they may deny the presence of a specific poison, would like to test in their own persons. I know of two instances of native gentlemen occupying influential and lucrative positions in this District visiting their homes in Bardwan in perfect health, and there contracting an attack of the prevailing fever, of which they both died in the course of a few months."

I need only add, that all the facts in this District favour the prevailing opinion that the epidemic is due to a concurrence of causes partly known, partly unknown. It finds a congenial home in a depressed and water-logged country, a dense population, and all the insanitary surroundings which a dense population entails. On the other hand, it seems equally clear that it has a virus of its own independent of these causes, which may poison the air of a perfectly dry and sparsely-populated tract. As in the case of cholera, it is easy to see that certain conditions predispose places for its ravages, but unsafe

to say that those conditions circumscribe its operations. The theory favoured by Colonel Haig is, it seems, obviously true to the extent that an enfeebled vitality due to poor and insufficient food, bad water, and impure air, render those attacked with the fever less capable of resisting its attacks than they would be if possessed of greater strength of constitution ; but conspicuously wrong in so far as it seems to contend that the morbid influences to which they are exposed have undergone no change, but remain the same in the affected tracts as they always were, while only the power of resisting them is weakened. That the air is positively tainted or poisoned, any one residing in it for a few days can easily ascertain ; while a perfectly healthy and well-fed man transferred to an affected locality is attacked with the fever almost immediately. On the other hand, the poison seems only to affect human beings. The people of Daspur assured me unanimously, that at the time when so many deaths were occurring, their cattle and dogs were perfectly healthy.' The Magistrate concludes his report with the following figures :—

STATEMENT showing the Number treated and the Number of Deaths in the Fever-stricken Villages of the Midnapur District from October 1872 to 31st of March 1873.

Names of Villages.	Total treated.	Total deaths.
Ghatal,	4,899	29
Daspur,	9,728	93
Narajol,	7,525	99
Shahpur,	1,855	15
Total,	<u>24,007</u>	<u>236</u>

CATTLE EPIDEMICS.— A cattle plague of a serious character occurred in Midnapur in 1868. It first showed itself in the month of October, and was most virulent during December and January ; gradually subsiding as the warm season approached, and terminating altogether in the month of April. It is said that the proportion of deaths amounted to three-fourths of the cattle affected. The symptoms were as follow :— The animal became feverish and restless, refusing food and drink ; the palate and salivary glands then became inflamed,

a profuse discharge of saliva took place, bloody purging generally set in, and the animal finally died of exhaustion.

FAIRS AS A CAUSE OF DISEASE.—The religious trading fairs and gatherings have long been regarded as sources of disease. The different shrines at which these assemblages are held are largely attended by pilgrims to or from the Temple of Jagannath in Orissa. These pilgrims, who have often travelled from long distances, are generally footsore, enfeebled from the effects of exposure to the rain and sun, ill-clothed and ill-fed, and consequently predisposed to the diseases which the filthy state of the shrines engenders. No sanitary precautions are taken at the local fairs ; and when the worship is over and the assembly dispersed, they are left covered with vegetable matter in all stages of decomposition. The malaria and filth in the vicinity of the shrines are said to poison the atmosphere for miles around.

THE KABIRAJs are native medical practitioners, not trained in our medical schools. The following is the mode of treatment commonly adopted by them in cases of fever. When first called in, the *kabiraj* invariably advises abstinence from all food. No matter what the type of the fever may be, fasting is rigidly enforced. After a few days, when the violence of the attack is supposed to have abated, fried rice and sugar-candy are generally given to the patient. Cold water is never allowed, no matter how urgent the thirst may be. An infusion of aniseed is administered by drops, or a rag soaked in it is given to the patient to suck, as the sole mitigation of the burning thirst. When cerebral symptoms occur, hot fomentations by means of heated earthen pots held near and around the patient's head are resorted to, and discontinued when violent perspiration is induced. Decoctions of vegetable drugs, such as senna, *nim* bark, *patal*, *mutha*, *haritaki*, etc. are freely given. If the fever lasts beyond the seventh day, pills or powders of various kinds are resorted to. The pills given in the early stages of the disease consist of vegetable preparations, aconite being a component part of almost every kind used. The pills are about the size of a pea, and in some instances contain over eighty ingredients. Drugs are never administered more than three times a day. The pills are usually powdered, and made into a kind of jelly before being taken. Should the fever last ten or

twelve days with a fatal termination threatening, the *kabiraj* resorts to quinine, but only as a last resource. Arsenic is a remedy which native doctors employ with success in some cases of ague. In sub-acute or chronic cases, mineral drugs are freely administered, gold and silver being frequently given in these cases. Preparations of oil-seeds and clarified butter (*ghi*) are also much esteemed. When all remedies fail, a peculiar preparation of gold and mercury called *makaradhwaj* is relied on. As a class, the *kabirajs* know little or nothing of surgery. They sometimes undertake to cure syphilis, mercury being the chief remedy, but they administer it without the slightest discrimination. Profuse salivation, combined with sloughing of the groin, is not unfrequently the result of this treatment. The Civil Surgeon states, that although the influence of the *kabirajs* over the people is declining, their treatment is preferred in long-standing cases of fever and dysentery.

THE INDIGENOUS VEGETABLE DRUGS in Midnapur are thus reported to me by the Civil Surgeon :—*kath* (Acacia Catechu) ; *kathbish* (Aconitum Napellus) ; *bakorh* (Adhatoda vasica) ; *bel* (Ægle Marmelos) ; *ghrita kumari* (Aloe perfoliata) ; *Hijili badam* (Anacardium occidentale) ; *khas-khas* (Andropogon muricatum) ; *China badam* (Arachis hypogæa) ; *sial kanta* (Argemone Mexicana) ; *nim* (Azadirachta Indica) ; *madar* (Calotropis gigantea) ; *jangli badam*, (Terminalia Catappa) ; *papaya* (Carica Papaya) ; *dad-mardan* (Cassia alata) ; *pati nebu* (Citrus Limonum) ; *bhant* (Clerodendron infortunatum) ; *galimcha* (Cocculus cordifolius) ; *lalitapat* (Corchorus olitorius) ; *jaipal* (Croton Tiglium) ; *sasha* (Cucumis sativus) ; *kankur* (Cucumis utilissimus) ; *haldi* (Curcuma longa) ; *mutha* (Cyperus rotundus) ; *sada dhutura* (Datura alba) ; *gab* (Diospyros embryopteris) ; *amlaki* (Emblica officinalis) ; *ayapan* (Eupatorium Ayapana) ; *manasa* (Euphorbia ligularia) ; *anantamul* (Hemidesmus Indicus) ; *nil* (Indigofera tinctoria) ; *masina* (Linum usitatissimum) ; arrow-root (Maranta arundinacea) ; *pudina* (Mentha sativa) ; *nageswar* (Mesua ferrea) ; *champa* (Michelia Champaca) ; *alkusi* (Mucuna pruriens) ; *kaigphal* (Flacourtia sapida) *swet karabi* (Nerium odorum, album) ; *khet-papra* (Oldenlandia biflora) ; *gandhabhaduli* (Pæderia foetida) ; *kala dana* (Pharbitis Nil) ; *pan* (Piper Betel) ; *chita* (Plumbago zeylanica) ; *dalim*

(*Punica Granatum*) ; *bhela* (*Semecarpus Anacardium*) ; *sada sarisha* (*Sinapis alba*) ; *kala sarisha* (*Sinapis nigra*) ; *kuchila* (*Strychnos Nux-vomica*) ; *tentul* (*Tamarindus Indica*) ; *bahra* (*Terminalia bellerica*) ; *haritaki* (*Terminalia Chebula*) ; *paniphal* (*Trapa bispinosa*) ; *patal* (*Trichosanthes dioica*) ; *kurchi* (*Wrightia antidysenterica*) ; *adrak* (*Zingiber officinale*). The only mineral drugs found in Midnapur District are salt, iron, and oxide of lead. I beg to acknowledge my obligations to Professor Balfour of Edinburgh for correcting the botanical names in the foregoing list.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.—The following table illustrates the relief afforded by the charitable dispensaries in the District in the year 1871, with the proportion of the cost borne by Government.

MEDICAL CHARITIES OF THE DISTRICT OF MIDNAPUR IN 1871.

Dispensaries	Date of Establishment.	IN-DOOR PATIENTS							Out-Door Patients.		Operations		Total Income of Dispensaries, exclusive of European Medicines supplied free of Charge by Government			Total Expenditure, exclusive of European Medicines			Cost to Govt't on Account of Salaries, etc.			Cost to Govt't on Account of European Medicines.			Income from Local Subscriptions and other Sources.					
		Total Patients Treated	Relieved or Recovered	Ceased to Attend	Died.	Remaining at the end of the Year	Percentage of Deaths to Treated	Daily Average of Sick	Total Treated	Average Daily Attendance	Capital	Minor	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d			
(1) Midnapur Dispensary	1835	369	224	47	83	15	22 49	17 06	4917	61 52	32	438	£	s	d	424	8	11	413	2	6	248	8	0	£	s	d	£	s	d
(2) Ratagera Bazar Branch Dispensary	1869	49	36	6	6	1	12 24	3 00	1918	16 00	16	4	261	13	1	170	3	6	120	0	0	4	12	5	141	13	1			
(3) Garbheta Branch Dispensary,	1868	166	140	1	21	4	12 65	4 40	868	11 10	.	.	105	19	3	106	19	0	64	0	0	2	13	8	41	19	3			
(4) Tanlak Branch Dispensary,	1851	33	23	6	4		12 12	2 00	2107	14 00	2	83	119	18	8	106	12	4	72	0	0	3	6	7	47	18	8			
(5) Krishnaganj Branch Dispensary,	1869	.							1138	170 83			96	0	0	54	4	3	48	0	0	2	17	6	48	0	0			
Total	..	617	423	60	114	20	18 47		10,948		50	525	1007	19	11	851	1	7	552	8	0	35	11	11	455	11	11			

APPENDICES

Appendix I	...	253
Appendix II	...	260
Appendix III	...	283

APPENDIX – I

Preface to

A STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF BENGAL

Vol. I, London, 1875.

‘We are of opinion,’ wrote the Court of Directors in 1807 to their servants in Bengal, ‘that a Statistical Survey of the country would be attended with much utility : we therefore recommend proper steps to be taken for the execution of the same.’ The despatch from which these words are quoted forms an example of a long series of instructions, in which the East India Company urged the acquisition of accurate and systematic knowledge concerning the territories which it had won. The first formulated effort in Bengal dates from 1769, four years after the civil administration of the Province came into its hands; the latest orders of the Court of Directors on the subject were issued in 1855, three years before the Government of India passed from the Company to the Crown. During the long interval, many able and earnest men had laboured at the work, manuscript materials of great value had been amassed, and several important volumes had been published. But such efforts were isolated, directed by no central organization, and unsustained by any continuous plan of execution.

The ten years which followed the transfer of the Government of India to the Crown produced a new set of efforts towards the statistical elucidation of the country. Conspicuous among them was the work commenced under the orders of Sir Richard. Temple in 1866, when Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces; and in 1867, the Governor-General in Council, in obedience to orders received from Her Majesty’s Secretary of State, directed a Statistical Account to be prepared for each of the twelve great Provinces of India.¹

¹ These Provinces, or rather political divisions under separate administrations, are :—(1) Bengal; (2) Bombay; (3) Madras; (4) North-Western Provinces; (5) Panjab; (6) Assam, in 1867 included within Bengal;

The Local Governments struck out widely different schemes for conducting the work. It was as if an order had issued from some central power for a Statistical Survey of all Europe, and each nation had set about its execution on a separate plan. It became apparent that large sums of money were likely to be expended, while considerable uncertainty existed as to the results. Meanwhile several public bodies pressed on the Government of India the necessity of a systematic organization, with the view to ensuring uniformity of plan in the execution of the work. Without such uniformity, the Council of the Asiatic Society pointed out that when the local compilations came to be finally digested into the General Account of India, there would be no basis for comparative statistics, and much 'of the original work would have to be gone over again *de novo*.'

The Governor-General in council arrived at the same conclusion; and in 1869 directed me to visit the various Local Governments, to ascertain what each had done in the matter, and to 'submit a comprehensive scheme for utilizing the information already collected, for prescribing the principles according to which all local Gazetteers are in future to be prepared, and for the consolidation into one work of the whole of the materials that may be available.'

In obedience to these orders, I submitted, in 1869, a Plan for an Imperial Gazetteer of India. It was found necessary, in the first place, to provide that the materials collected by each of the Local Governments should afford a common basis for the comparative statistics of the country, when eventually consolidated into the one final work for all India. In the second place, to devise measures for ensuring the compilation of the materials thus obtained within a reasonable time, and on a uniform plan. The District forms the administrative unit in India, and I took it as the unit of the Statistical Survey in the work of collecting the materials; the Province forms a large administrative entity, and was taken as the basis of the organization for compiling the materials when obtained. With a view to securing uniformity in the materials, I drew up,

(7) Central Provinces; (8) British Burmah; (9) The Berars, under the Resident of Hyderabad; (10) Mysore and Coorg; (11) Rajputana; (12) Central India.—*Orders of the Government of India, No. 1758, dated 19th Oct. 1867.*

under the orders of Government, six series of leading questions,¹ illustrating the topographical, ethnical, agricultural, industrial, administrative, medical, and other aspects of an Indian District, which might serve as a basis for the investigations throughout all India. With a view to securing certainty of execution, provincial editors were appointed, each of whom was made responsible for getting in the returns from the District officers within the territory assigned to him, supplementing them by information from the Heads of Departments and local sources, and working them up into the Statistical Account or Gazetteer of the Province. In this way the unpaid co-operation of the whole body of officers throughout the two hundred and twenty-five Districts of India was enlisted, the best local knowledge was brought to bear, and in each Province there was an editor directly responsible for the completion of the Provincial Account on a uniform plan and within a reasonable time. The supervision of the whole rested with me, as Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India.²

Under this system, the materials for the whole of British India have now been collected, in several Provinces the work of compilation has rapidly advanced, and everywhere it is well in hand. During the same period the first Census of India has been taken, and furnished a vast accession to our knowledge of the people. The materials now amassed form a Statistical Survey of a continent with a population exceeding that of all Europe, Russia excepted.³

¹ Subsequently circulated to the Local Governments under the title of 'Heads of Information required for the Imperial Gazetteer of India.'

² The above narrative is as accurate as a comprehensive sketch can be made without going into very minute details. Thus in one Presidency, Madras, a more elaborate system of separate District Accounts has been adopted; while the Gazetteers of one of the minor administrations (the Central Provinces) and of the Haidarabad Assigned Districts (the Berars) were commenced and practically done before the introduction of the system above described. Again, with regard to Native States, considerations of public policy have rendered anything like rigid uniformity in my demands for information impracticable.

³ Population of Europe in 1872, 301,600,000, according to the tables of E. Behm and Dr. H. Wagner of Gotha. Population of Russia in Europe (including Finland and former kingdom of Poland), 71,207,786. Europe in 1872, less Russia, 230,392,214. British and Feudatory India in 1872, over 240 millions; now estimated at nearly 250 millions.

In addition to my duties as Director-General of the undertaking throughout India, the Provincial Accounts for Bengal and Assam were placed in my own hands. These now separated administrations comprise one-third of the entire population of British India. The District Accounts which I have myself prepared, as provincial editor for Bengal and Assam, derive their materials from four distinct sources. My inquiries, circulated to the District officers, form the basis of the whole; but they have been supplemented by special reports from the provincial Heads of Departments; by papers on individual subjects, obtained for me by the Government; and by my personal researches in the Bengal Districts, and among the manuscript records of the Government at Calcutta, and in the India Office, London.

No effort has been spared to ensure accuracy. But it would be unwise for a central compiler, drawing his materials from so distant and widely-separated sources, to hope that in this respect he had obtained a complete success. It should not be forgotten that until the Census of 1872 we were without precise statistics of the population of any single District in Bengal or Assam; and that whereas the estimate had stood at forty millions for the Province, the total by the Census amounted to sixty-six and three-quarter millions. But these corrections were only obtained by special Census machinery for arriving at the facts, District by District. No such machinery has been available for the present work; and it only pretends to the degree of accuracy which intelligent officials on the spot can arrive at, without any statistical staff for sifting evidence or testing conclusions. My lists of inquiries were issued by the Government of Bengal in 1869-70, and during the next three years the District officers collected the information asked for. In some cases their reports have amounted to several hundred pages for a single District. As they came in, I tested them by the replies obtained from adjoining localities, and by personal inquiries in travelling through the Districts. Figures officially furnished to me by Heads of Departments or by Secretaries to Government have as a rule been accepted without verification. The proof-sheets of each volume, after being read by myself, have been revised by the Government before according its sanction to publication;

and in some cases have been sent by it to the District Officers, with a view to obtaining their comments.

But notwithstanding these safeguards against error, the reader will find that on several points I have to warn him to accept my statistics as approximate estimates only; in other cases he will perhaps detect inaccuracies which have escaped my notice. The failures throughout a century of previous efforts (a single one of which had extended over seven years, and cost the East India Company £ 30,000) stand as warnings against excessive elaboration of any sort. I was ordered to produce an Account of each District, completed on a moderate scale, and within a very short time. The Provinces of Bengal and Assam have a population more varied in character and more numerous than that of England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, and Italy put together. In three years I had to collect, without the help of a single paid local assistant, the information for this vast tract; and in four more years the compilation of the whole is to be finished, in addition to my work as Director-General of the whole operations throughout India. During the next fifteen months (1875-76), I shall have the help of five local assistants in Bengal; and my obligations to the two gentlemen in my personal office have been very great. But I beg that those who come after me may, in improving on my work, remember the conditions under which it has been done. When it was commenced six years ago, no one knew precisely the population of a single district in Bengal; and the Departments of Government were wont to base their estimates on separate and often widely discrepant estimates, both as to the number of the people and the area of its territory.

Each volume will deal with a group of Districts representing on an average a population of about four million souls, or nearly one million more than that of Scotland. The present five volumes exhibit the statistics of a population more than six times the inhabitants of that country. The complete work will contain the results of my Statistical Survey of the whole fifty-nine Districts of Bengal and Assam. Each volume proceeds on a uniform plan, dealing with the same subjects in the same order of sequence, and, as far as possible, in the same words. In adjoining Districts which possess many features in common,

this system involves frequent repetitions. But such repetitions are unavoidable, if a complete separate Account of each District is to be given. In every District I start with a description of its geography, general aspects, and physical features. I then proceed to the people, their occupations, ethnical divisions and creeds, with their material condition and distribution into town and country. Agriculture follows, with special details regarding rice cultivation and other crops, the condition of the husbandmen, the size of their farms, their implements, land tenures, prices and wages, rates of rent, and the natural calamities to which the District is subject. Its commerce, means of communication, manufactures, capital and interest, and other industrial aspects are then dealt with. The working of the District Administration is next exhibited in considerable detail,—its revenue and expenditure at present and at previous periods; the statistics of protection to person and property, the police, the jails, and the criminal classes; the statistics of education and of the post office, with notices of any local institutions, and the statistics of the Administrative Subdivisions. Each Account concludes with the sanitary aspects of the District, its medical topography, endemic and epidemic diseases, indigenous drugs, medical charities, and such meteorological data as can be procured.

The fifty-nine Districts of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal and the Chief-Commissionership of Assam comprise an area of 248,231 square miles, and a population of 66,856,859 souls. I have now (1875) collected the materials for the whole of this territory, and compiled the Accounts for one-half of the Districts. The present five volumes deal with 13 Districts—the 24 Parganas, Sundarbans, Nadiya, Jessor, Midnapur, Hugli, Bardwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Dacca, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Maimansinh—containing 21,425,353 souls.

My general plan of operations has been to begin with the seaboard and to work inland. The first volume deals with the great metropolitan District of the 24 Parganas, and the wild seaboard jungles and solitary swamps of the Sundarbans. Calcutta, the capital city of India, lies within the 24 Parganas, but forms a separate jurisdiction, and will receive separate treatment. My statistics of the 24 Parganas, and all averages

or comparisons based upon them, are exclusive of Calcutta; but for the sake of convenience, I give a bare outline of the metropolitan population among the towns of the District. The tract dealt with in this volume exhibits the typical features of a delta. In the more inland parts, the land, although to the eye a dead level throughout, is fairly well raised, and little subject to inundation either from the rivers or tidal waves. But as one approaches the coast, the level gradually declines to an elevation which throughout many hundred square miles is scarcely raised above high water-mark, and which at particular spots is below high water, being protected from the inroads of the sea by sandhills blown up by the south-west monsoon. This lower region of the Sundarbans forms a sort of drowned land, covered with jungle, smitten by malaria, and infested by wild beasts; broken up by swamps, intersected by a thousand river channels and maritime backwaters; but gradually dotted, as the traveller recedes from the seaboard, with clearings and patches of rice land.

The statistics in the following pages were collected in the years 1870-73. This first volume deals with an area of ten thousand square miles, containing a population (inclusive of Calcutta) of nearly three million souls.

APPENDIX – II

Preface to

THE IMPERIAL GAZETTEER OF INDIA

1st. Edition, 1881

EARLY EFFORTS UNDER THE COMPANY, 1769 TO 1855.—‘We are of opinion,’ wrote the Court of Directors in 1807 to their servants in Bengal, ‘that a Statistical Survey of the country would be attended with much utility; we therefore recommend proper steps to be taken for the ‘execution of the same.’ The despatch from which these words are quoted forms one of a long series of instructions in which the East India Company urged a systematic inquiry into its territories. The first formulated effort in Bengal dates from 1769, four years after that Province came into its hands; the latest orders of the Court of Directors on the subject were issued in 1855, three years before the administration of India passed from the Company to the Crown. During the interval many able and earnest men had laboured at the work, manuscript materials of great value had been amassed, and several important volumes had been published. But such attempts were isolated, directed by no central organization, and unsustained by any continuous plan of execution.

EFFORTS UNDER THE CROWN, 1858-69.—The ten years which followed the transfer of the Government of India to the Crown in 1858, produced a new set of efforts towards the elucidation of the country. Conspicuous among them was the work begun in 1866 under the direction of Sir Richard Temple, when Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.¹ The controlling power in England had now passed from a body of experts, the Court of Directors, to Parliament and the nation at large. Accurate and accessible information regarding India was

¹ Executed by Mr. Charles Grant (now Sir Charles Grant, K.C.S.I.), of the Bengal Civil Service, sometime Member of the Viceroy’s Legislative Council and Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.

become, under the new system, an essential condition for the safe exercise of that control. Accordingly, in 1867, the Viceroy, acting on instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary of State ordered an account to be drawn up for each of the twelve great Provinces of India.¹

THEIR FAILURE, 1869., REMONSTRANCES BY PUBLIC BODIES.—The Provincial Governments struck out widely divergent schemes for conducting the work. It was as if a command had issued from some central power for a Statistical survey of all Europe, and each nation set about its execution on a separate plan. It became apparent that vast sums of money would be expended, while considerable uncertainty existed as to the results. One local Government started on a scale which, if generally adopted, would have involved an outlay of £ 1,00,000 for the District materials alone. The head of another Province himself² carried out the work, expeditiously and at scarcely any cost to the State; but on a system which although admirably suited to the territories under his care; could not be applied to the rest of India. Meanwhile, the commercial community and various public bodies were pressing upon the Government the necessity of systematic organization, with a view to ensure uniformity in the execution of the work. Without such uniformity, the Council of the Asiatic Society pointed out that, when the local compilations came to be finally digested into the General Account of India, there would be no basis for comparative statistics, and much 'of the original work would have to be gone over again *de novo*.'

RENEWED EFFORTS, 1869.—The Viceroy arrived at the same conclusion; and in 1869, His Excellency directed me to visit the various Provincial Governments, with a view to 'submit a comprehensive scheme for utilizing the information already

¹ These Provinces, or rather political divisions under separate administration, were—(1) Bengal; (2) Bombay; (3) Madras; (4) The North-Western Provinces and Oudh; (5) The Punjab; (6) Assam, in 1867 included in Bengal; (7) Central Provinces; (8) British Burma; (9) The Berars, under the Resident at Haidarabad; (10) Mysore and Coorg; (11) Rajputana; (12) Central India.—*Orders of the Government of India*, No. 1758, dated 19th October 1867.

² Mr. Alfred Lyall, C.B., of the Bengal Civil Service, then Commissioner of West Berar; now Sir Alfred Lyall, K.C.B., and Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

collected; for prescribing the principles' to be thenceforth adopted; 'and for the consolidation into one work of the whole of the materials that may be available.'

CAUSES OF PREVIOUS FAILURES., TWO STAGES OF THE WORK.—In carrying out these instructions, I found that the series of previous efforts had failed from two distinct causes. In one class of cases, a central officer of rank and ability had been appointed; but he had not been supported by adequate machinery for collecting the local materials. In another class, the District Officers had been left to work each on his own plan, without the guidance of any single mind. The first class had failed from want of local organization; the second, from want of central control.¹ The task set before me consisted, in fact, of two separate stages—First, a 'local inquiry,' conducted on a uniform scheme, throughout each of the [then] 240 Districts, or administrative units, of British India : Second, the consolidation of the materials thus obtained into one book. The first stage could be effected only by a Statistical Survey of India; the second is represented by The Imperial Gazetteer.

¹ The Governor-General in Council thus summed up the previous efforts, in a Resolution dated the 8th September 1871 : 'Three distinct series of operations have in time past been undertaken or encouraged by the Government, with a view to obtaining trustworthy accounts of the country, such as might form a Gazetteer of India; the whole representing a very large outlay, commencing as far back as 1769, and one of the efforts costing £ 30,000 for merely collecting the materials for part of a single Province. From a variety of causes, all more or less proceeding from defective organization, this large expenditure, while accumulating isolated materials of great value, failed to yield any systematic and comprehensive result.' The Resolution then reviewed the fresh operations ordered by the Secretary of State in 1867 : 'Various schemes were set on foot to give effect to these orders, some of them so costly as to be altogether disproportionate to the results to be obtained. But His Excellency in Council observes that excessive costliness is not the only unfortunate effect of the want of organization, which left each local Government to invent a scheme of its own, irrespective of what was being done in other Provinces. There was, in fact, no unity of plan or central supervision, and the results did not contain the materials required for the comparative statistics of the Empire. ... Widely different schemes have been propounded by the local administrations, some of them involving a very extravagant outlay, others of too meagre a character. Each local Government has given its own interpretation to the work; and the experience of the last few years shows that, in the absence of a central organization, the cost of the enterprise will swell to an enormous total, while the same heterogeneous incompleteness, which rendered all previous efforts infructuous, will again result.'

No basis existed at that time for either of these works. A Census had never been taken for British India; and in some Provinces the different departments of the same Government grounded their financial and administrative demands on widely diverse estimates of the population.

PLAN FOR A STATISTICAL SURVEY AND AN IMPERIAL GAZETTEER, 1869., ITS OBJECTS.—Accordingly, in 1869, I submitted to the Governor-General in Council a Plan for a Statistical Survey and an Imperial Gazetteer of India.¹ It endeavoured, First, to eliminate the causes of previous failures, by providing a uniform scheme, a local mechanism, and a central control. Second, to clearly define the objects of the present undertaking. These objects were partly of an administrative and partly of a general character; namely, 'for the use of the Controlling Body in England, of administrators in India, and of the public.' Third, to secure the co-operation of the Provincial Governments,—lukewarm heretofore in such matters,—by respecting their individuality, and by modifying the uniform scheme to suit, the circumstances of their several Provinces. Fourth, to collect the materials at once systematically and cheaply, by enlisting the unpaid agency of the District Officers throughout India under a central control. The Government was pleased to approve of this Plan, and to 'secure for the execution of the design the supervision of the designer.'²

EXTENT OF THE OPERATIONS., MECHANISM OF THE STATISTICAL SURVEY., ITS PRACTICAL WORKING.—'The operations,' wrote the Governor-General in Council, 'will extend over ten separate Governments which, with their Feudatory States, administer a territory of 1½ million square miles and govern a population estimated at 200 million souls [since found to be 255 millions]. The work represents, therefore, a series of local inquiries and comparative statistics, spread over an area but little less than that of all Europe, excepting Russia,' and a population then exceeding that of all Europe, less Russia. With a view to securing uniformity in the materials, I drew up six series of leading questions,³ illustrating the topographical, ethnical, agricultural, industrial, administrative, and medical aspects

¹ Printed at the Home Secretariat Press, 144 pp. folio. Calcutta, 1870.

² *Proceedings of the Government of India*, dated 8th September 1871.

of an Indian District. These have served as a basis for the Statistical Survey throughout all India. With a view to securing punctuality of execution, Provincial Compilers were appointed, each responsible for getting in the returns from the District Officers within the territories assigned to him; for supplementing those returns by information from heads of Departments and other local sources; and for working up the results into the Statistical Account or Gazetteer of the Province. In this way, the unpaid co-operation of the administrative staff throughout the 240 Districts of India was enlisted, the best local knowledge was brought to bear, while in each Province a paid editor was answerable for the completion of the Provincial Account on a uniform plan and within a reasonable time. The supervision of the whole rested with me, as Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India. During one-half of each year, I visited the various Provinces, especially Bengal, which I retained in my own hands as Provincial Editor in addition to my duties as Director-General. The other half of each year, I devoted to testing and working up the results.

THE STATISTICAL SURVEY OF INDIA., THE 100 VOLUMES OF THE SURVEY; NOW PRACTICALLY COMPLETED.—During the past twelve years, the Statistical Survey has been conducted throughout the whole of British India. The District forms the administrative unit in India, and the Statistical Survey furnishes an elaborate account of each of the 240 Districts. The Province is the administrative whole in India, and the Statistical Survey groups all the District materials into fifteen Provincial Accounts or Gazetteers. Such a work, if it is to furnish a basis for administrative action in India, and supply data to the Controlling Body in England, must be at once comprehensive and minute. The District and Provincial Accounts will form about 120 printed volumes, aggregating 50,000 pages, of which 90 volumes, making over 32,000 pages, were issued by 1880. The operations have (1881) been completed throughout 12 Provinces and 210 Districts, representing a population of about 190 millions of souls.

³Circulated to the Provincial Governments, under the title of 'Heads of Information required for the Imperial Gazetteer.'

THE STATISTICAL SURVEY OF BRITISH INDIA (1881)

PROVINCE.	Area in Square Miles	Population	Number of Districts	Number Vols. and Pages printed.		Provincial Compiler
				Jan 1881		
				Vols.	Pages	
1 Bengal,	196,942	62,815,370	47	20	8,246	W W Hunter, CSI
2 Assam, .	53,856	4,132,019	13	2	917	W W Hunter, CSI
3 North-Western Provinces,	86,528	31,438,217	35	6	4,200?	E T Atkinson, Esq A C Tupp, Esq H Conybeare, Esq E J Cunningham Esq
4 Punjab,	219,610	22,956,970	32	32	3,000	C M Minn, Esq Dr Selons
5. Oudh, . .	23,992	11,220,232	12	3	1,737	
6 Central Provinces, . .	113,797	9,251,229	19	1	769	Sir C Grant, KCSI
7 Bombay,	191,832	23,180,721	24	9	4,500	J M Campbell, Esq A W Hughes, Esq
8 Sind, .						
9 Madras,	147,789	34,962,005	21	9	5,000	The District Officers
10. Berar	17,631	2,226,496	6	1	317	Sir Alfred Lyall, K.C.B
11. Mysore .	29,325	5,055,412	8	2	1,249	L Rice, Esq
12 Coorg, .	2,000	168,312	6	1	312	L Rice, Esq
13. British Burma,	88,556	2,747,148	15	2	1,628	Captain Spearman
14 Ajmere and Mhairwara, .	2,711	396,889	1	1	104	J D La Touche, Esq
15 Aden,	35	22,722	1	1	235	Capt F M Hunter
Total, .	1,174,604	210,573,742	240	90	32,214	

NOTE—The area and population include Native States under the administration of the Provincial Governments. The number of Districts is taken from the Parliamentary Abstract for 1877, except that Aden is added, and the number for Bengal is reckoned at 47, being the actual number of Districts dealt with in the Statistical Account of Bengal. Slight alterations have since been made; but the figures will remain substantially the same, till the results of the new Census are known. Mysore was returned to Native Rule in 1881.

[Since the foregoing table was prepared in 1881, the Statistical Survey of British India has been completed in 199 volumes, aggregating 54,504 pages (1855).]

STATISTICAL OPERATIONS IN NATIVE STATES., EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.—The Feudatory States and Chiefdoms, exceeding 300 in number, with 50 millions of people, were from the first placed outside the scope of the Statistical Survey. In these territories it was unsuitable to attempt minute investigations, which the native princes would have been likely to misunderstand, and able to frustrate. Accordingly, my Plan of 1869 restricted the Statistical Survey to the British

territories, but pointed out that the Native States must be included in the ultimate compilation for all India, that is, the Imperial Gazetteer. Steps were therefore taken to bring together the information already existing regarding the Native States, and to supplement it. In States temporarily under British management, this was quite practicable; and Major Powlett's account of Alwar supplies an admirable specimen of what may be done under these circumstances.

FIVE GREAT GROUPS OF STATES., HOW DEALT WITH; SEPARATELY., FRONTIER KINGDOMS.—Apart from such exceptional cases, I found that the 300 Native States of India had to be dealt with in five great groups. The first and most numerous class comprised the States and Chiefdoms which are in political dependence on the Provincial Governments. These States have accepted a large measure of British supervision, and the Provincial Compilers were able to draw up fairly adequate accounts of them. The second group consisted of the Rajputana States; and two valuable volumes have been collected regarding them by Mr. Lyall (now Sir Alfred Lyall, K.C.B.) when Governor-General's Agent.¹ For the third group, including the Central India States, I did not find myself in a position to bring forward specific proposals; and in the case of several of them, this book will add but little to the sum of human knowledge. In the fourth group, or the territories of the Nizam, efforts were made at an early stage to obtain the necessary materials from His Highness' Government. The fifth group consisted of Frontier and Independent States, such as Afghanistan, Burma, and Nepal. Some account of such States would be expected in the Imperial Gazetteer of India. But any account of them, drawn up from official sources and issued under the authority of the British Government, might give rise to uneasiness among the Princes who rule those territories, our neighbours and allies. After full consideration, it was decided that no special inquiry should be made with regard to trans-frontier Independent Kingdoms, and that no official documents should be used. The articles upon them in the Imperial Gazetteer are, accordingly, a mere reproduction of accounts already before the public; and for them no responsibility attaches to the Government.

MECHANISM EMPLOYED FOR THE NATIVE STATES., ITS IMPERFECT RESULTS., NO STATISTICAL SURVEY OF NATIVE STATES.—Of the five groups of Native States, therefore, the first was satisfactorily dealt with by means of the Provincial Compilers ; the fifth can scarcely be said to have been dealt with at all. In the three intermediate groups, many isolated efforts were made, and a special Assistant was deputed to me in the Foreign Office, Calcutta, with a view to putting together the materials already existing. His labours were afterwards supplemented in the Political Department of the India Office. But the confidential relationship between the Government of India and its Feudatory States, the dislike of the native Princes to inquiries of a social or economic character, and the scrupulous delicacy of the Foreign Office to avoid grounds of offence, have rendered a complete treatment of such territories impossible. I beg that those who use this book will believe that the occasional meagreness of the results, and the inadequate treatment of certain Native States, are due not to want of anxious effort on my part, but to the conditions under which I worked. In some cases I have had to fall back on the old materials compiled, at the expense of the Court of Directors, by Mr. Edward Thornton in the India House, and published by their authority, in four volumes, in 1854.¹ As a whole, therefore, the articles on the Native States represent a much less exact method of inquiry than those on the British Provinces. They will be found, however, to mark a material advance in our information regarding Feudatory India. The basis for more systematic operations, a Census of the Feudatory Territories, does not exist; and a Statistical Survey of the Native States still remains unattempted.

[Including the less exact work thus done for the native States, the results of the Statistical Survey of British and Feudatory India, now (1886) make 128 printed volumes, aggregating 60,000 pages.]

¹ Under the title of *A Gazetteer of the Territories under the East India Company and of the Native States on the Continent of India*. (4 volumes.) This work, excellent at its date, was compiled between the years 1844 and 1854; Mr. Thornton being paid a sum of money by the Court of Directors in addition to his salary, 'it being distinctly understood that the copyright is to vest in the East India Company' (*Resolution of the Court of Directors, 18th February 1846*).

THE THREE OBJECTS OF THE WORK; (1) FOR INDIAN ADMINISTRATORS; (2) FOR THE CONTROLLING BODY IN ENGLAND; (3) FOR THE PUBLIC.—The two primary objects of the operations were ‘for the use of Indian administrators,’ and ‘for the use of the Controlling Body in England.’ The 128 volumes of the Statistical Survey were expressly compiled for these purposes; and of the twelve years which have elapsed since its commencement, the first eight were devoted to that part of the work. But these 128 volumes, although by no means too elaborate for administrative requirements, are practically within the reach of but a small official class. The third object of the undertaking had been defined in my original Plan, to be ‘for the use of the public;’ and the remaining four years of the twelve have been chiefly occupied in reducing the voluminous records of the Statistical Survey to a practicable size for general reference. The result is now presented in the nine volumes of *The Imperial Gazetteer*.

INITIAL STEPS IN COMPILING THE IMPERIAL GAZETTEER., LIST OF PLACES., THE FIRST OF THE KIND FOR INDIA.—Previous Gazetteers had described, with industry and sometimes with eloquence, the famous cities of India, its historical sites, and great Provinces. But in the absence of systematic materials, they had to depend on the chance topography of tourists, or on a place happening to find its way into the records of the India House. A petty hamlet in which some traveller had halted for a night, or any locality which had formed the subject of a correspondence with the Court of Directors, stood out in bold relief; while great tracts and rivers, or the most important features of large provinces, were passed over without a word. My first business, therefore, was to take care that every place which deserved mention should be enumerated; my second, to see that it received neither less nor more space than its relative importance demanded. With a view to the first object, I sent circulars to the Provincial Editors and District Officers, calling for a return, upon clearly-stated principles, of every town, river, mountain, historic site, religious resort, commercial fair, harbour, or other place of importance in each District of British India. This list I checked from the Statistical Survey, and supplemented with many places which, although of no local significance, had obtained prominence in the literature of India. Eleven thousand names were thus arranged in

alphabetical order. No such list had ever before been compiled for Her Majesty's Indian Empire. After being thinned out, it was printed in a folio volume, and forwarded to all the Local Governments in India, with a request that they would ascertain that the enumeration was correct as regards the territories under their care. I finally revised the list by the light of their suggestions, and selected about 8000 places for treatment in the Imperial Gazetteer.

SYSTEM OF UNIFORM TREATMENT., MODEL ARTICLES.—During the interval which elapsed before their replies could be received, I drew up model articles, showing paragraph by paragraph the method of treatment; and I got together the missing materials for Provinces where the Statistical Survey had not sufficiently advanced to yield them. In this way, I placed in the hand of each contributor to The Imperial Gazetteer the names of the places of which he was to treat, together with the complete materials for dealing with them, and also an exact mould into which those materials were to be squeezed.

DEFECTS OF THE WORK, AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDEBOOK., PERIOD TO WHICH THE STATISTICS REFER.—The value of the work, as a guide to administration, is impaired by the fact that its figures cannot be brought up to date. The basis of Indian statistics is still the Census of 1872, taken a few months after my appointment as Director-General; and the Government has decided that the publication of the Gazetteer must not be delayed, with a view to obtaining the results of the new Census of 1881. Even the Census of 1872 does not supply a uniform basis for the whole of India; and in certain Provinces I have had to work on enumerations taken in 1867, 1868, 1869, and 1871. Much labour has been expended in bringing up the economic statistics to a more recent date, with the help of Administration Reports, and by special inquiries. But the length of time necessarily occupied by a Statistical Survey of a Continent, nearly equal to all Europe less Russia, rendered it inevitable that the results should refer to different years during its progress. My figures represent substantially the population statistics of India in 1872, with the administrative and trade statistics from 1875 to 1879. In some cases, even this degree of uniformity has not been found practicable; in others, I have brought the facts down to 1880. But the reduction of the statistics of India to a uniform basis must be deferred for

a second edition, after the results of the new Census are obtained.

ITS DEFECTS AS A GENERAL GAZETTEER., DEFICIENT IN HISTORY.—In its other aspect, as a book for general reference, the Imperial Gazetteer is also less perfect than I could have wished in several points. The Governor-General in Council found that the task of collecting the administrative materials and statistics would prove a burden quite as heavy as he deemed expedient to lay upon the Local Governments. The historical aspects were expressly left to the voluntary research of the Provincial compilers. From the first, one of the Local Governments objected even to this moderate scope being allowed for matters not directly of an official character. The emphasis which the Governor-General in Council laid in 1875 on the responsibilities of the Provincial Governments for the tone and contents of the work, seemed to several of them to render general disquisitions unsuitable. Even in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam, which I retained in my own hands as Provincial Editor, every sheet had to receive the sanction of the Local Government before it was printed off. Many topics of social or political interest were excluded; and a general introductory volume, after being in part printed, was not issued.

THE TRUE HISTORY OF INDIA., WHERE IT IS TO BE FOUND., SOME PROGRESS MADE.—But if the history of India is ever to be anything more than a record of conquest and crime, it must be sought for among the people themselves. Valuable historical materials had been collected for the Statistical Survey; and in 1877, the Secretary of State for India decided that a wider scope should be allowed me for their use in the Imperial Gazetteer. I have done my best to give effect to that view; and it will be seen, for the first time in these volumes, that every Indian District has its own history. The true territorial unit of Indian history is, indeed, much smaller than the British District. For example, he who would study the history of Oudh must search for it in the *pargana* or parish; in other parts of India, the *zamindari* or estate is the historical unit; in others, the chiefship; while in a few, the rural districts were mere appendages to the great cities. Had it been permitted me to subject the rural annals of India to systematic inquiry, as I wished, a rich harvest would have been gathered in. The

historical accumulations made by the wayside, in conducting the Statistical Survey, have proved of much value. But in attempting to incorporate them into the Imperial Gazetteer, I have had frequently to choose between using materials which, owing to the earlier instructions, I had been unable to test; or rejecting statements, in themselves new and interesting, but which, in the later stages of the work, I could not personally verify.

GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS., ELEMENTS OF ERROR.—The latitudes and longitudes have, with a few exceptions, been revised by the Surveyor-General's Department.¹ I have to thank General Sir H. Thuillier for many years of friendly help, and Colonel J. T. Walker for more recent assistance, in the Geographical details. Areas, distances, and similar details have been taken from the latest scientific measurements; but the frequent changes in the jurisdiction of Indian Districts introduce an element of variation difficult to eliminate. In some cases, averages will not work out correctly, as in the rates of local taxation per head, where the municipal area often differs from the town area taken for the census. In other instances, the items will not add up; as in certain Districts where the religious classification of the people does not yield the exact total arrived at by the general enumeration. There are not very many discrepancies of this sort, and no labour has been spared to get rid of them. But in several cases I cannot go beyond the figures supplied to me by the local authorities; and although I may see that there is something wrong, I am unable to set it right. I beg that those who may come after me will, in improving on my work, remember the conditions under which it has been done. When it was begun, no one knew exactly the population of a single Province of India, or of a single District of Bengal. In the latter Province alone, the Census of 1872 suddenly disclosed the presence of 22 millions

¹ The longitudes require a constant correction of *minus* $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes ($-0^{\circ} 2' 30''$) to reduce them from the adopted value of $80^{\circ} 17' 21''$ for the longitude of the Madras Observatory, on which they have been based, to the value of $80^{\circ} 14' 51''$, which was determined electro-telegraphically in 1876-77. It is not improbable that some further minute correction may be hereafter made; and the Surveyor-General has deemed it undesirable that the values of all the individual longitudes should be altered, until the final determination has been arrived at.

of British subjects whose existence had never previously been suspected. The population of Bengal and Assam, up to that time reckoned at 40 millions, was ascertained in 1872 to number $67\frac{3}{4}$ millions of souls.

SPELLING OF INDIAN PROPER NAMES., INHERENT DIFFICULTY OF TRANSLITERATION.—The spelling of names of Indian places has long formed a subject of controversy. Without a uniform system of rendering them, an alphabetical Gazetteer could not start; and one of my first duties was to lay down a system for transliterating Indian Proper Names. In existing Gazetteers of India, the same word appears under many forms. The best work of this class gives eleven different spellings of the same town, not one of which is exactly correct; and in order to be sure of finding a place, the inquirer has to look it up under every possible disguise. The truth is, it requires a careful study of the vernacular languages of India, and some knowledge of Sanskrit, which forms the key to them, before one is able to spell local names correctly in the native alphabets. It next requires a well-considered system of transliteration in order to render such names into the English character. For it must be remembered that the Sanskrit alphabet has fifty letters or signs, while the English alphabet has only twenty-six. Thus, the Roman alphabet has but one letter for the consonant *n*; the Sanskrit has four letters for it, in its various modifications, as a dental, lingual, palatal, and guttural. On the other hand, the Indian alphabets attach a uniform sound to each vowel; while in English, the same vowel may have several sounds, such as *u* in *but*, *put*, *cure*, *rural*. Indian names can therefore be represented only in a loose and popular manner in our alphabet; unless, indeed, we manufacture a new Roman alphabet with additional letters, by means of accents over the vowels, dots under the consonants, italics, or similar devices of typography.

SYSTEM ADOPTED IN THIS WORK.,—A recognition of this fundamental difficulty should make an Indian spelling-reformer moderate in his aims and patient of opposition. I first collected about 15,000 names of places, written out by competent natives in the vernacular character; and transliterated them accurately on the method adopted by the Royal Asiatic Society. But the multitude of accented vowels

and dotted consonants convinced me that such precision was impracticable for popular use. I therefore re-transliterated them on a more simple system, discarding dotted consonants altogether, using as few accents as possible over the vowels, and abstaining from liberties with the alphabet which would give it an un-English look, and perplex the ordinary reader. My object was, not to write a paper for the Asiatic Society's Journal, but to lay down a uniform system which might afford a practical settlement of the long dispute about Indian orthography, by being adopted by all fairly educated men.

DIFFICULTIES OF THE TASK, UNIFORM VOWEL SOUNDS.—The task was complicated by the circumstance that three systems had co-existed during nearly a century. For two of the rivals a good case might be made out. Popular usage had drawn at random from all three, and a number of important places had thus obtained an historical or literary fixity of spelling. Well-known names of this last class, when transliterated in an unwonted fashion, or by a rival method, had a strange look, which afforded scope for pleasantries. Yet one system had to be accepted and resolutely adhered to. The method which I have adopted does not attempt to represent the fine distinctions of the Sanskrit consonants, such as the dental and lingual *d*. But it attaches a uniform value to each vowel, namely, *a* and *u* as in *rural*; *e* as in *grey*, *mechant*; and *i* and *o* as in *police*. The accented *a*, *i*, and *u* represent the long forms of the same vowels in Sanskrit, or the sounds, in the English words *far*, *pier*, and *lure*.

NAMES WITH HISTORICAL FIXITY OF SPELLING.—Some Indian names, however, have grown so familiar as to render a rectification of their spelling impracticable. Such names have been considerably dealt with. I found that they arranged themselves under two classes. In the first class, the popular or historical fixity of spelling had so hardened and set as to preclude any alteration whatever; thus, Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. In the second class, it was possible to bring the spelling somewhat nearer to the uniform system, without destroying the historical or popular identity of the word. For example, the multiform terminal *pur*, *pore*, *poor*, *poore*, a city, might be uniformly given in its correct Hindi form as *pur*, even if the body of the word could not be rectified; while the similar

termination *nagar*, *nagore*, *nugger*, *nuggur*, *naggore*, etc., a town, might be uniformly rendered *nagar*. Such a system, like all compromises, was open to the strictures of both the extreme parties—of the scrupulous purists on the one hand, and of the obstinate upholders of the old confused spelling on the other. It commended itself to the intermediate body of reasonable men. The Government of India, in 1870, accordingly promulgated my system of transliteration in the Official Gazette, and formally authorized its adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM., THE NEW SYSTEM ADOPTED FOR ALL OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.—It remained to organize machinery for enforcing its general use. Several of the leading Indian journals expressed their willingness to adopt a uniform system of spelling which presented no typographical difficulties. Up to that time, the same place used to appear under diverse forms in the different newspapers, and was often variously rendered in different columns of the same journal. A printed volume containing the correct spelling of all Indian places was circulated to the Press, to literary institutions, libraries, publishing houses, and to the official Departments. But the chief sources from which Indian news is derived, and from which Indian orthography emanates, are the Government Gazettes and Administration Reports. The official Gazettes in India give much of the information which in England would be communicated by Her Majesty's Ministers to Parliament. Each Provincial Government has its own set of Reports and its own Gazette—the latter sometimes swelling into a weekly folio of over a hundred pages, filled with State papers. The Governor-General requested each of the Provincial Governments to draw up a list of places within its own territories, spelt on my system. These lists, after receiving his sanction, were to be published in the Gazettes, and to be thenceforth adopted in them and all other official publications.

PROVINCIAL LISTS REVISED BY SUPREME GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—The Provincial Governments carried out the principles of transliteration with varying degrees of uniformity, and took widely different views as to the number of names which had obtained a popular fixity of spelling. This was inevitable; and the Governor-General in Council, in revising the lists, endeavoured to remove divergences and to attain the maximum

degree of uniformity. Owing to the number of languages and alphabets used in India, the work extended over nearly ten years. The Provincial Governments have been induced to reconsider their first efforts; and in each new edition, they have approached more closely to the lines originally laid down. In one Presidency, indeed, the latest revision has advanced beyond the limits of accuracy which I had thought practicable. Throughout India, every year sees the uniform system of spelling more generally introduced; it has been accepted in the Parliamentary blue-books at home, and is irresistibly forcing its way into the English press.

SPELLING IN THE IMPERIAL GAZETTEER.—Meanwhile, the Imperial Gazetteer had to march on. The Government decided that the publication of the whole work should not, in any circumstances, be delayed beyond the year 1881. The proof sheets had to pass under the revision of the Secretary of State in Council; and most of them were, accordingly, printed in 1879 and 1880. I therefore did my best to arrive at the true spelling of each name, starting from my own lists in the vernacular character, and usually accepting the Provincial lists as drawn up by the Local Governments, when they arrived in time; although not delaying the work by waiting for their final revision.

PROVINCIAL VARIATIONS., NO COMMON ALPHABET IN INDIA.—It sometimes happened that adjoining Governments adopted different renderings for the same word, such as a river or a border district; while each Government introduced variations in revised editions of its own list. If an attempt were made to introduce a uniform system of spelling proper names for all Europe, similar delays and difficulties would arise. It must be remembered, too, that India has no common alphabet, like the Roman alphabet in Europe, but a variety of local characters, which render the same word by different letters.

DIALECTAL VARIATIONS.—Thus, apart from the difficulty of dental and lingual forms; the commonest of all terminals, *pur*, a town, is spelt with a short *u* in Hindi and by most of the Sanskrit family of alphabets, and with a long *u* in the Urdu alphabet, derived from Arabic sources. Dialectal variations also play a confusing part; a universal place-name like *Sivapur* or *Shivapur*, being hardened into *Sibpur* in Bengal,

and softened into Hiwapur in the adjoining Province of Assam. It will therefore be possible to discover instances in which the rendering of a name in the Imperial Gazetteer differs from that ultimately sanctioned by the Government of India. But candid inquirers will, I hope, find the degree of uniformity which has been arrived at by the Provincial Governments and myself, more surprising than the occasional variations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS., THANKS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICERS; TO THE PROVINCIAL COMPILERS.—I must not let this work pass from my hands without expressing my sincere thanks for the help which I have so liberally received in its preparation. It has been officially described as the only example of a national undertaking of the sort, being carried out under the uninterrupted direction of one mind, from the initial District Survey to the final alphabetical compilation in a Gazetteer. But such merits as it may be found to possess, are due in large measure to the zealous and friendly help of my fellow-workers. I feel especially grateful to the District Officers throughout India who have supplied the local materials. On their unselfish labours the fabric of this work, as, indeed, of the whole Indian administration, rests. The Provincial Compilers of the Statistical Survey, enumerated on page xii [Page 265-Ed.], have also my sincere thanks. In particular, the volumes of Mr. Atkinson on the North-Western Provinces; of Mr. Campbell on the Bombay Presidency; and of Mr. Rice on Mysore, form models of administrative research. Mr. Hughes' work on Sind also deserves high praise.

THANKS TO MY COADJUTORS IN ENGLAND.—The condensation of the Statistical Survey of the Provinces into The Imperial Gazetteer has been conducted chiefly in England, where the cost of literary work is much less than in India. In that task I have had, at intervals, the aid of Mr. H. P. Platt, Fellow of Lincoln College; Major-General J. Clarke, formerly Commissioner in Oudh; Mr. J. S. Cotton, late Fellow and Lecturer at Queen's College, Oxford; Mr. Grant Allen, late of Merton College, Oxford; Miss Alice Betham (now Mrs. Mackenzie), sometime Acting Tutor of Girton College, Cambridge; Miss Margaret Robertson; Mr. G. Barclay, M. A.; the Rev. E. Cunningham, M. A.; Mr. Philip Robinson, late Professor of History in the Government College, Allahabad. I

shall ever look back with pleasure to my connection with this able and friendly body of fellow-workers. To Mr. Cotton, and to Mr. Charles Dollman who has been my assistant throughout, I owe in a special manner my thanks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO FORMER ADMINISTRATORS.—Apart from the literary compilation, I have endeavoured to bring the best practical knowledge to bear upon the revision of the work. My obligations in this respect to distinguished Indian Administrators are too numerous to be specifically detailed. But I desire particularly to thank Sir William Muir, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, for his kind revision of the article on those territories; Sir William Robinson, sometime Acting Governor of Madras, for his contributions to articles on that Presidency, and for his untiring friendly help; Sir Robert Montgomery and Sir Henry Davies, sometime Lieutenant-Governors of the Punjab; Mr. Lewin Bowring, C.B., sometime Chief Commissioner of Mysore; and General Fytche, C.S.I., sometime Chief Commissioner of British Burma, for their personal contributions to, or revisions of, the articles on the Provinces which they formerly ruled. Mr. J. H. Batten, sometime Commissioner of Kumaun and Garhwal, supplied in chief part the articles on these districts. Many other retired administrators have, in like manner, enriched my materials with monographs on the territories in which their life's work was done. In each of the principal articles, I have tried to get the sheets revised by the person with the largest administrative experience of the Presidency or Province. To Colonel Yule, C.B., the editor of *Marco Polo*, I am indebted for scholarly and most generous aid in all articles which deal with the mediæval history of India.

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTIONS., WHY DEFICIENT.—A separate Archæological Survey is now at work in India; but only a very small portion of its results reached me in time to be incorporated into the Imperial Gazetteer. The existence of that Survey precluded me from independent researches within its jurisdiction. I hope, therefore, that the next edition of this work will deal more fully and accurately with Indian antiquities than it has been in my power to do. But the reader will find how deeply my pages are indebted to the Reports already issued by General Cunningham, the head of the Archæological Survey; and to Dr. Burgess, the Archæological

Surveyor for Western India. Mr. W. Rees Philipps has assisted me in the revision of the Madras articles, and supplied interesting materials regarding the Christian population. Mr. Buchan, the secretary to the Royal Scottish Meteorological Society, kindly revised the section of article INDIA which deals with his branch of science. My obligations to other friends, too numerous to enumerate here, are mentioned in the body of the work. Finally, I beg to tender my thanks to their Excellencies the Viceroy of Portuguese India, and the Governor-General of French India, for their courtesy to me while visiting their territories; and for materials placed at my disposal by the chiefs of their respective administrations.

REVISION BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—I cannot close these acknowledgments without recording my sense of the fairness with which I have invariably been treated by the Governments that have had to supervise the work. Twelve years ago, I laid down the conditions which I regarded as essential for the right conduct of the enterprise, and on which I was willing to undertake it. Very deliberately, indeed not till two years afterwards, were those conditions accepted by the Supreme Government of India of that day. But it attached to them a proviso that each of the Local Governments should be responsible for the general scope and contents of the Provincial Accounts of its own territories; and the Secretary of State accepted a similar responsibility in regard to the final compilation of the Imperial Gazetteer.

THE SHIFTING PERSONNEL OF THE REVISING BODIES.—The result was that, as already stated, every page of the twenty volumes of the Account of Bengal had to be passed by the Government of that Province, and every sheet of The Imperial Gazetteer has been submitted to the Secretary of State. But during the progress of the work, the *personnel* of the Local Governments has changed over and over again. More than thirty Governors or heads of administrations have ruled the Indian Provinces, while four successive Viceroys and four Secretaries of State have directed the Indian Empire. some of these great functionaries have held decided opinions of their own on many important questions which arose in the conduct of the operations. The work, therefore, is the result of several not perfectly parallel forces. On the one hand, there was myself with a staff of fellow-workers, anxious to adhere to the Plan

as originally laid down : on the other hand, there were a number of shifting Governments, local and central, some of them divergent in their views, and any one of them able to render my position difficult, and even, for a time, to impede the work.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE SITUATION.—The delicacy of the situation was enhanced by the circumstance, that many points had to be decided in my absence from the head-quarters of the Government of India. From the first, during half of each year I was visiting the Local Governments, or on circuit through the Provinces; latterly, I have been in England for considerable periods, while compiling the Imperial Gazetteer. I have to thank the Indian Governments, not only for the patience with which they have always listened to my views, but for the courteous reconsideration of decisions which they had arrived at in my absence. I undertook to see the work to an end, and I was placed in the best position for doing so. I have been enabled to examine the various Provinces of India with my own eyes, to study their local circumstances, and to travel over fifty thousand miles by every means of civilised and uncivilised transport.

THOSE DIFFICULTIES SUCCESSFULLY AVERTED.—If I have brought to a successful issue an enterprise in which abler men had failed, it is due to the support which I have thus received. The Governor-General in Council, or the Secretary of State, might at any time have simply ordered me to adopt the methods or measures which seemed to him best. Yet not only has there never been a single occasion during the twelve years in which commands have thus been substituted for argument; but orders, passed after full deliberation, have been modified or rescinded to suit what I believed to be the requirements of the work. No revision by the Indian Government could take the primary responsibility off myself. This has been generously recognised throughout; and the double supervision has never been permitted to give rise to a strain in the conduct of the undertaking. Whatever blemishes or deficiencies may be found in these volumes are due, therefore, not to the difficult double system of responsibility imposed by the Government, but to my own self, or to the fundamental conditions under which statistical inquiries have to be conducted in India.

THE MUGHAL SURVEY OF INDIA, 1580 A.D., THE FRENCH SURVEY OF EGYPT, 1821.—Now that the twelve years' work is over, and nothing can be added or taken away, I feel those blemishes and deficiencies acutely enough. When I started, I had two national enterprises in my mind : the *Ain-i-Akbari*, or statistical survey of India, conducted three hundred years ago by the Finance Minister of Akbar, the greatest of Mughal Emperors; and the military survey of Egypt, executed by France in the first quarter of the present century.¹ The former is a masterpiece of administrative detail; the latter a brilliant effort of organized research. It was my hope, and the wish of the Viceroy—now, alas! gone from this world—who most deeply impressed his personality on the undertaking, to make a memorial of England's work in India, more lasting, because truer and more complete, than these monuments of Mughal Empire and of French ambition.

SEPARATE SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS OF INDIA.—The scientific aspects of the country, its fauna, flora, and geology, already form the subject of elaborate volumes. For the most important of them, such as the fishes, botany, geology, meteorology, and medical aspects of India, special Surveys or Departments exist. It would have been improper for me to intrude upon the ground so ably occupied. I have therefore confined myself on these heads to brief but careful sketches, such as might be useful to practical administrators, and referred the scientific inquirer to the separate standard works, or to the publications of the professional Indian Surveys.

THE WORK PAID FOR BY INDIA; AND FOR ITS USE.—I have ever borne in mind that the work has been paid for by the Indian

¹ Description de L'Egypte, ou recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Egypte pendant l'expédition de l'armée Française. (36 volumes, 1821.) Twenty-one years were given to this magnificent work, four of them being devoted to local inquiries at the time of the military occupation, and seventeen being spent in working up the results. 'La France,' says the preface, after setting forth the brilliant and numerous staff of *savants* who took part in the survey, 'avait réuni tous ses efforts pour la conquête de cette contrée; tous les efforts des arts ont été employés pour sa description.' The area dealt with was only a fraction of that now covered by the Statistical Survey of India; the cost of the operations was many times as great. The results were sumptuously published under an Ordonnance du Roi, dated 1820, and dedicated to His Majesty Louis XVIII., in 25 volumes of letterpress and 12 double folios of maps and illustrations.

people, and that it was primarily designed as an aid to the better Government of their country. Since the authority passed from the Company to the Crown, fundamental changes have taken place alike in the central control and in the local administration. As already mentioned, the transfer of the controlling power from the Court of Directors, a small body with special knowledge of the country, to Parliament, an assembly whose members have had for the most part no opportunity of studying Indian affairs caused the necessity for a standard account of India to be more keenly felt. No book exists, sufficiently accurate and sufficiently comprehensive, to be generally accepted as a work of reference. Contradictory assertions can therefore be safely hazarded on almost every point of Indian statistics; and Indian discussions commonly lose themselves in a wilderness of irrelevant issues.

ALTERED CONDITIONS OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT; PROVIDED FOR BY THIS WORK.—But if a standard account of India is required for the Controlling Body in England, the altered conditions of Indian service have rendered such a work still more necessary for the local administrators. The Company's servants accepted India as their home, and generally remained a long time in one District. But under the beneficent policy of the Queen's Proclamation, the natives of India every year engross a larger share of the actual Government. The English administrators are accepting their ultimate position as a small and highly-mobilised superintending staff. They are shifted more rapidly from District to District; and the new system of furlough, with a view to keeping them at the utmost efficiency, encourages them to take their holidays at short intervals of four years, instead of granting long periods of idleness once or twice in a quarter of a century's service. They have not the same opportunities for slowly accumulating personal knowledge of one locality; on the other hand, their energies are not allowed to be eaten away by rust. An officer, who had spent a dozen years in one District, might have little to learn from a printed account of it; but to the present generation of quickly changed 'officiating' functionaries, such a work is indispensable.

CONCLUSION., THE COST OF IGNORANCE.—The thanks, gazetted and private, of the Provincial Governments prove that the Statistical Survey has fulfilled this its primary design in India. I hope that The Imperial Gazetteer will be found to

answer the same purpose for the Controlling Body in Parliament, and the English public. It furnishes, for the first time, an account of India based upon a personal survey of the country, and upon an actual enumeration of the people. I trust that it may transfer many Indian questions from the region of haphazard statement to the jurisdiction of calm knowledge. 'Nothing,' I wrote in my original Plan, submitted to the Viceroy in 1869, 'nothing is more costly to a Government than ignorance.' I believe that, in spite of all its defects, this work will prove a memorable episode in the long battle against ignorance; a breakwater against the tide of prejudice and false opinions flowing down upon us from the past; and a foundation for a truer and wider knowledge of India in time to come. Its aim has been, not literary graces, nor scientific discovery, nor antiquarian research; but an earnest endeavour to render India better Governed, because better understood.

For the first time in the history of our rule, an opportunity has fallen to me of finding out the truth about the Indian people, and of honestly telling it. Whether I have used that opportunity in a worthy spirit, and whether I have succeeded in the task in which so many previous attempts have failed, it is for others to judge. Sound knowledge is of slow growth, and no intensity of effort can do in twelve years for India what centuries of local research have accomplished for Europe. But when I compare the basis for future effort created by these volumes, with the absence of any systematic materials when I commenced the work, I feel that the first and most difficult stage has been passed. If the statistical survey of the Mughal India, conducted by Akbar's Finance Minister, had afforded such a basis, it would have proved invaluable to English administrators. What would European scholars not give for a similar account of the Roman Empire! The territories dealt with in these volumes far exceed the Provinces which paid tribute to the Great Akbar, and contain a population exactly double Gibbon's estimate of all the nations and races that obeyed Imperial Rome. I leave the work to the charitable judgment of those who can contrast it with the efforts of Indian statisticians who have gone before me; I also leave it with a sure confidence that it will be improved by brethren of my Service who come after me.

W. W. HUNTER.

April 12, 1881.

APPENDIX – III

Preface to

DR. FRANCIS BUCHANAN (HAMILTON)'S GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT, OR ZILLA, OF DINAJPUR, IN THE PROVINCE OR SOUBAH OF BENGAL

Calcutta, 1833.

IN 1807, the Directors of the East India Company having recommended that a full and accurate Statistical Survey of the territories under the immediate authority of the Presidency of Fort William should be executed, for the purpose of obtaining such information on the real state of the country as might be productive of future improvement and advantage, the Governor General Lord Minto resolved, that Dr. Francis Buchanan, whose abilities and experience were justly considered by the court to qualify him in a peculiar degree for such an investigation, should be appointed to this duty.

The extent and variety of the objects to which his attention was to be directed, will be understood from the following extract from the instructions drawn up by the Secretary to Government for his guidance :

“Your inquiries are to extend throughout the whole of the territories subject to the immediate authority of the Presidency of Fort William.

“The Governor General in Council is of opinion, that these inquiries should commence in the district of Rungpur, and that from thence you should proceed to the westward through each district on the north side of the Ganges, until you reach the western boundary of the Honorable Company's provinces. You will then proceed towards the south and east, until you have examined all the districts on the south side of the great river, and afterwards proceed to Dacca, and the other districts towards the eastern frontier.

“It is also desirable, that you should extend your inquiries to the adjacent countries, and to those petty states with which

the British Government has no regular intercourse. In performing this duty, however, you are prohibited from quitting the Company's territories, and are directed to confine your inquiries to consulting such of the natives of those countries as you may meet with, or natives of the British territories who have visited the countries in question.

"Your inquiries should be particularly directed to the following subjects, which you are to examine with as much accuracy as local circumstances will admit.

"I. A. *Topographical* account of each district, including the extent, soil, plains, mountains, rivers, harbours, towns, and subdivisions ; together with an account of the air and weather, and whatever you may discover worthy of remark concerning the *history* and *antiquities* of the country.

"II. *The Condition of the Inhabitants* ; their number, the state of their food, clothing, and habitations ; the peculiar diseases to which they are liable ; together with the means that have been taken or may be proposed to remove them ; the education of youth ; and the provision or resources for the indigent.

"III. *Religion* ; the number, progress, and most remarkable customs of each different sect or tribe of which the population consists ; together with the emoluments and power which their priests and chiefs enjoy ; and what circumstances exist or may probably arise that might attach them to Government, or render them disaffected.

"IV. *The Natural Productions of the Country*, animal, vegetable, and mineral ; especially such as are made use of in diet, in medicine, in commerce, or in arts and manufactures. The following objects deserve your particular attention :

"1st. *The fisheries*, their extent, the manner in which they are conducted, and the obstacles that appear to exist against their improvement and extension.

"2nd. *The forests*, of which you will endeavour to ascertain the extent and situation, with respect to water-conveyance. You will investigate the kinds of trees which they contain, together with their comparative value, and you will point out such means, as occur to you, for increasing the number of the more valuable kinds, or for introducing new ones that may be still more useful.

"3rd. The *mines* and *quarries* are objects of particular concern. You will investigate their produce, the manner of working them, and the state of the people employed.

"V. *Agriculture*, under which head your inquiries are to be directed to the following points :

"1st. The different kinds of *vegetables* cultivated, whether for food, forage, medicine, or intoxication, or as raw materials for the arts : the modes of cultivation adopted for each kind ; the seasons when they are sown and reaped ; the value of the produce of a given extent of land cultivated with each kind ; the profit arising to the cultivator from each, and the manner in which each is prepared and fitted for market. Should it appear that any new object of cultivation could be introduced with advantage, you will suggest the means by which its introduction may be encouraged.

"2nd. The *implements of husbandry* employed, with the defects and advantages of each, and suggestions for the introduction of new ones, that may be more effectual.

"3rd. The manure employed for the soil, especially the means used for irrigation.

"4th. The means used for excluding floods and inundations, with such remarks, as may occur to you, on the defects in their management, and the remedies that might be employed.

"5th. The different breeds of the *cattle, poultry, and other domestic animals* reared by the natives. The manner in which they are bred and kept ; the profits derived from rearing and maintaining them ; the kinds used in labour ; whether the produce of the country be sufficient, without importation, to answer the demand, or to enable the farmer to export ; and whether any kinds not now reared might be advantageously introduced.

"6th. *Fences*, the various kinds, that are used, or that might be introduced, with observations concerning the utility of this part of agriculture in the present state of the country.

"7th. The state of *farms* ; their usual size, the stock required, with the manner in which it is procured ; the expense of management ; the rent, whether paid in specie, or in kind ; the wages and condition of farming servants and labourers employed in husbandry ; tenures by which farms are held, with their comparative advantages, and the means which, in

your opinion, may be employed to extend and improve the cultivation of the country.

"8th. The *state of the landed property*, and of the *tenures* by which it is held, in so far as these seem to affect agriculture.

"VI. The progress made by the natives in the *fine arts*, in the *common arts*, and the state of the *manufactures*; you will describe their architecture, sculptures, and paintings, and inquire into the different processes and machinery used by their workmen, and procure an account of the various kinds and amount of goods manufactured in each district. It should also be an object of your attention to ascertain the ability of the country to produce the raw materials used in them; and what proportion, if any, is necessary to be imported from other countries, and under what advantages, or disadvantages, such importation now is, or might be made; you will also ascertain how the necessary capital is procured, the situation of the artists and manufactures, the mode of providing their goods, the usual rates of their labour; any particular advantages they may enjoy, their comparative affluence with respect to the cultivators of the land, their domestic usages, the nature of the sales, and the regulations respecting their markets. Should it appear to you that any new art or manufacture might be introduced with advantage into any district, you are to point out in what manner you think it may be accomplished.

"VII. *Commerce*; the quantity of goods exported and imported in each district; the manner of conducting sales, especially at fairs and markets; the regulation of money, weights, and measures; the nature of the conveyance of goods by land and water, and the means by which this may be facilitated, especially, by making or repairing roads.

"In addition to the foregoing objects of inquiry, you will take every opportunity of forwarding to the Company's Botanical Garden at this presidency, whatever useful or rare and curious plants and seeds you may be enabled to acquire in the progress of your researches, with such observations as may be necessary for their culture."

In pursuance with these instructions, Dr. Buchanan was occupied, during the years 1807, 8, 9, 10, and 11 in a minute survey of the districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Puraniya, Bhagelpur, Behar, and the city of Patna, Shahabad, and

Gorakhpur. Upon each of these districts he submitted a voluminous report, accompanied with statistical tables, maps, and drawings, and where an opportunity was afforded him of collecting it, with collateral information illustrative of the people, or of the geography and natural history. of the neighbouring countries; thus the report on Puraniya embraces an account of Nipal, and of the Sikkim country; the report on Bhagulpur contains vocabularies of the languages spoken by the hill tribes of that district, compared with the Hindi; and that of Behar exhibits a similar vocabulary of the Dhangar and Bengali dialects.

The original records, occupying twenty-five folio volumes in manuscript, were transmitted by the Indian Government to the Honorable Court of Directors; a copy of the whole having been previously made, and deposited in the office of the Chief Secretary at Calcutta. Duplicates of the drawings and maps, however, were unfortunately not preserved with the rest, probably from the difficulty at that time of getting them executed in India.

It is matter of surprise and regret, that these valuable documents were not given to the public when stamped with the interest of originality and immediate applicability to the actual circumstances of the districts, and when they would have proved of great utility to the public officers of Government. Although, however, no immediate steps were taken for their publication in an entire form, we learn from the preface Hamilton's Hindustan, that the Honorable Court allowed the author of that useful compilation the freest access to the manuscripts of Doctor Buchanan, and it must be confessed that much of the information they contain has been condensed into the body of that work, throughout the pages of which continual references will be seen to the *Buchanan manuscripts*.

The readers of the Journal of the Asiatic Society are aware of the manner in which the arrangement for their publication in the present form originated. Captain J. D. Herbert, Editor of the GLEANINGS IN SCIENCE, being anxious to secure to his subscribers a privilege which should render the support of his journal less burdensome to the few and scattered cultivators of scientific knowledge in India, negotiated with the Government for permission to circulate the work free of

postage on condition of devoting monthly a certain number of pages (stipulated at not less than eight) to the publication "of valuable official documents, having reference to public utility." The privilege was accorded by the Government; and the first volume of the reports, being the statistic account of Dinajpur, was placed in his hands, by Mr. G. Swinton, Chief Secretary to Government, who had been warmly interested in the promotion of the scheme. The Editor of the GLEANINGS, in fulfilling the conditions of his agreement, wisely determined to print the documents in a separate form, rather than incorporate detached portions of them as separate articles in the body of his journal. "On a full consideration of the subject," he says, in his notice to Subscribers, dated April, 1832, "we deemed the latter course the preferable one; particularly, considering the very full information contained in these journals, and that it related to the least known districts, as well as the great pains taken in the arrangement of all the particulars. It was thought that to break down and throw into detached pieces a work which the author had taken so much trouble to systematize, would be to lose one of the principal features of excellence which distinguish these records."

It has necessarily occupied many months to complete the present volume, under such circumstances; but the delay will not have caused much inconvenience, if the subscribers to the GLEANINGS and the JOURNAL have attended to the injunction, frequently repeated, that the scattered sheets should be reserved with care to be put together in the form of a separate volume.

It will be remarked, that many plates are referred to in the text: the drawings alluded to, as has already been stated, are in possession to the Honorable Court of Directors. It was thought better to preserve the references as they stood in the manuscript, in case the Honorable Court should hereafter be induced to publish them, either in a separate form, or of a size adapted to the present volume.

The interest which the work may command among the Subscribers to the Journal, and with the public at large, will determine how far it may be advisable to continue the publication of the remainder of the series, or whether they may for the present give way to other "official documents," of a more exclusively scientific nature.

INDEX

A

- Aboriginal tribes, 37
- Absentee landlords, 138-39
- Abwabs. or customary cesses, 99-104
- Administration, 147-219
- Administrative divisions, 182-219
- Afghan dynasty in Bengal, 2 ; Afghans in Midnapur, 35, 45
- Age, Population according to, 2ⁿ 30
- Agriculture, 66-105 ; *See also* Tillage, and Cultivators.
- Agricultural implements, 72
- Agricultural population compared with urban, 46-47
- Alluvion and diluvion, , 10-14
- American Baptist Mission, 46 ; for the Santals, 176-78 ; for *Zananas*, 179
- Anandpur village, with silk manufacture, 54
- Andhuri, Site of fair, 145
- Area of District, 1; under cultivation, 69-70
- Arrears of land revenue, 156
- Aspect of District : General Physical, 6-7.
- Assam, Emigrants to, 38
- Astichak embankment, 136

B

- Bagda river—*See* Rasulpur
- Balighai, trading village, 145
- Balarampur, *pargana* and village, 94-95, 188
- Balughat village with river traffic, 22
- Banka Canal, 22
- Banks of rivers of District, 10
- Bania, headman of village in Hijili, 58-59
- Bediya caste, 43
- Bhograi, a *pargana* now in Balasor, 2
- Birkul, seaside watering-place, 55, 190-91
- Birkul embankment, 135
- Blights, 105
- Blind, in District, 30

- Bore on rivers, 11
- Boundaries of District, 2
- Brahmans, 38
- F-ahma Samaj, 44, 46
- Brindabanchak embankment, 135
- Buddhists, 44
- Bunas, aboriginal tribe, 44
- Burnadi river, 9

C

- Calamities, Natural, 105-24
- Canals : Midnapore High Level Canal, its construction, prospects etc. 14-27 ; Rupnarayan and Rasulpur Canal, 22-23
- Capital and interest, 153
- Capital, Imported, 146
- Castes, 38-44
- Cattle, 71
- Cattle disease, 246
- Census of 1872 : its agencies, cost and results, 27-37
- Cereal crops other than rice, 68
- Cesses—*See* *Abwabs*
- Chandpur, seaside watering-place, 55
- Chandrakona, municipality, a former factory of Company, 48, 145, 152
- Chandrakona *pargana*, transferred from Hugli, 6, 192
- Changes in jurisdiction, 5-6
- Charitable institutions, 146
- Chaukidars*—*See* Police statistics
- Chhota or Chutia Nagpur, Immigrants from, 37
- Chitwa embankment, 134-35
- Cholera, 228
- Christian Population, 46-47
- Christian missions and schools, 46, 177-78
- Climate, 227
- Collection of land revenue, its mode, 154-63
- Commerce and trade, 145
- Communication—*See* Roads, Canals etc.
- Compensating influences in case of flood or drought, 109

Condition of the people : Material, 65-66
 Condition of the cultivators, 70-71
 Condition of the manufacturing classes, 142-43
 Conservancy, 241
 Contai or Kanthi Subdivision, 29, 183
 Cotton ; cultivation of, 68
 Cotton goods imported into, 146
 Courts, 157
 Cowcolly or Geonkhali, village with river traffic, 22 ; lighthouse, 9, 220, 224
 Criminal cases, 161-62
 Crops—See Tillage
 Cultivating tenures, 81-82
 Cultivators, condition of, 70-71. *See also* Occupancy rights and Tenures of land
 Cyclone of 1864, its effects, 219-27

D

Dantun *pargana* and village, trade in mixed silk and cotton cloth, 193
 Daspur village and police station, 54, 192
 Deaf and dumb, number of, 30
 Density of population, 26-29
 Diluvion—See Alluvion and diluvion
 Diseases, 227-46
 Dispensaries and Hospitals, 249-50
 Drainage, 24, 229, 234
 Dress of the people, 65-66
 Drought, 105-107
 Drowning, deaths by, 24
 Drugs, Indigenous vegetable, 248-249
 Dumb—See Deaf and dumb
 Durbachati *Khal* embankment, 133
 Dusaspur embankment, 134
 Dwellings of the people, 65-66

E

East India Company, early history of, 3-5
 Educational Statistics, 167-81.

Egra, Site of fair, 145
 Elevated tracts, hills etc., 6-7
 Embankments, along rivers, 24 ; alphabetical list of, with description of the system and cost, 124-38
 Emigration and Immigration, 37-38
 Endemic—See Diseases
 Eranch *pargana*, and embankment, 137, 194
 Epidemic—See Diseases
 Expenditure—See Revenue and expenditure
 Exports and imports, 146

F

Factory, weaving of the Company at Chandrakona, 48
 Fairs or religious gatherings, 145 ; as causes of disease, 247
 Fallow lands, 104
 Famine of 1866, effects and relief operations, 111-124
 Famine warnings, 110-11
 Females, number of, 27, 30
 Females; Occupations of, 33-34
Ferae Naturae, 25
 Ferries, 141
 Fever, Malarious : Report of the Magistrate, 229-46
 Fibres, Cultivation of, 68
 Fiscal Divisions of *parganas*, alphabetical list, 185-219
 Fish, fisheries and fishing communities, 23
 Floods, 107-09
 Food of the people, 66
 Foreign landlords, 138-39
 Forts, Ruined, 4
 Furniture of the people, 66

G

Game, Small, 25
 Gangakhali *Khal* embankments, 132
 Garbeta Subdivision, 29, 184 ; branch dispensary, 250
 Gauhati School, 175
 Geonkhali—See Cowcolly

Ghatal municipality, recently transferred from Hugli, 48 ; Seat of commerce, 145 ; embankment, 133

Girl's Schools, 179-80

Gold dust found in the rivers of, 25, 142

Gopanadi river, 9

Gopballabhpur, site of fair in honour of Chaitanya, 145

Green Crops, 68

H

Haldi river, 9 ; embankment, 138

Hemp, cultivation of, 68

Hijli, formerly separate jurisdiction, 5 ; seat of salt manufacture, 143-45 ; history and administration, 196-97

Hijili Kasba *pargana*, 196 ; embankment, 137

Hill tribes, 37

Hindu population, 29, 44 *See also* Castes.

Hospitals—*See* Dispensaries

Houses, number of, 27

Hugli river, forms eastern boundary of district, 1 ; its courses, 8

Husbandmen—*See* Cultivators, Tillage etc

I

Idiots, number of, 30

Immigration—*See* Emigration and Immigration

Implements of agriculture—*See* Tillage, etc

Imports—*See* Exports and imports

Incomes and Income tax, 147

Indigenous drugs—*See* Drugs

Indigo, cultivation of, 68, 142 ; factories, 146

Insane, number of, 30

Institutions, Societies, etc, 146-47

Interest, rates of, 146

Inundations—*See* Floods

Iron found in district, 25, 142

Irrigation, from Midnapur High Level

Canal, 14-21 ; from other sources, 22, 104-05

J

Jagirs, 87-89

Jail statistics, 162-66

Jalainuta *pargana*, Historical account of, 197-198 ; embankment, 136

Jaleswar, a *pargana* and town now in Balasor district, 2

Jalpai, a land tenure peculiar to district, connected with manufacture of salt, 77

Jhargao *pargana*, 199 ; School, 174

Jharipur village, with fair in honour of Siva, 145

Jungle products, 25

Jurisdiction, extent of and changes in, 2-6

K

Kabirajs, *See* Native Physicians

Kaibartta, the most numerous caste in district, their history, subdivisions, and numbers, 40, 54
Kaliabhai and Kalikund rivers, tributaries of the Haldi, 10

Kanthi—*See* Contai

Kasai river, tributary of the Haldi, 9 ; embankment, 138

Kasiari village, with silk manufacture and trade, 54, 145

Kasijora village, with community of mat-makers, 54, 142

Kayapat village, with manufacture of cotton cloth, 54

Kedar *pargana*, Settlement of, 92-94

Kharan embankment, 136

Khasbar embankment, 134

Kukrahati village, with river traffic, 22

Kutabpur village, with fair, 145

L

Laboures—*See* Day-laboures

Land law, operation of, 98, 156-57

Land revenue, under the Mughuls, 2 ; under the English, 148-156

Land Settlement—*See* Settlement, 292

Land tenures—*See* Tenures of Land Land, Waste, 73-74

Landed estates, 148

Landholders—*See* Tenures of Land
Laterite found in district and quarried for building purposes, 25, 142

Lepers, number of 30

Libraries, Public, 146-47

Life, loss of, for drowning, 23

Life, loss of, by wild beasts and snake-bites, 25

Limestone, found in district 25

Living, expenses of, 66

Long-stemmed rice—*See* Rice crops

M

Madakhali embankment, 137

Magh fisherman visit the coast of Hijli, 23

Mainachura *pargana*, 205-06; *Kila*, or fort, 4

Majnamuta *pargana*, Historical account of, 206-07; embankment, 135

Mahishadal *pargana*, Historical account of, 204; fair, 145

Manufactures, 142-145

Manufacture of Salt in Hijli, 143-45

Manure, 104

Marhattas, 4-5, 34, 52

Marshes—*See* Lakes etc., and Reclamation

Mat manufactures, 142

Material condition of the people, 65-66

Measures—*See* Weights and measures.

Medical aspect, 227-50

Mela—*See* Fairs

Meteorological aspects—*See* Climate, Cyclones, etc.

MIDNAPUR

Geographical Situation, Area, Headquarters etc., 1; Boundaries, 2; Jurisdiction, 2-6; Physical aspect, 6-7; River system, 8-10; Changes in the course of the Hugli, 10-44; Midnapur High

Level Canal, 14-21; Tidal Canal, 22; Utilisation of Water Supply and Fisheries, 22-23; Land Reclamation, 24; Lines of Drainage, Mineral and Jungle Products, and *Ferae Naturae*, 25; Estimates of Population prior to 1872, 26; Census of 1872, its agencies and results, 27-37; Population according to Sex and Age, 27, 29-30; according to Occupation, 30-34; Ethnical Division of People, 34-37; Emigration etc., 37-38; List of Castes, 38-44; Religious division of the People, 44-46; Division of the People into Town and Country, 46-47; Large Towns etc., 47-56; Seaside Watering places, 57; Village Institutions, 57-56; Material condition of the people, 65-66; Agriculture, 66-104; Rice Crops etc., 66-69; Green Crops, 68; Miscellaneous Crops, 68; Area, Out-turn of crops, etc., 69-70; Condition of the Peasantry and Domestic Animals, 70-71; Agricultural Implements, Wages and Prices, Weights and Measures, 72-73; Waste lands, 73, Land Tenures, 74-89; Settlement, etc., 89-95; Revenue Survey, 96-97; Rates, of Rent, 98-99; *Abwabs*, or Customary Cesses, 99-04; Manure, 104, Irrigation and Blights, 104; Droughts, 105-07; Floods, 107-10; Famine Prices and Famine Warnings, 110-11; Famine of 1866, 111-24; Embankments, 124-38, Foreign and Absentee Proprietories, 138-39; Roads and means of Communication, 139-41; Minerals, 142; Manufactures, 142-43; Salt Manufacture, 143-45; Trade and Commerce, 145; Capital and Interest and Institutions, 146; Incomes and Income Tax, 147; Revenue and Expenditure, 147-50; Land Revenue, 150-51; Land Settlement, 151-52; Mode of

- Collecting Land Revenue, 152-53 ; Cost of Collection, 154-55 ; Arrears of Land Revenue, 155-56 ; Law and Courts, 156-57 ; Police Statistics, 157-61 ; Criminal Cases, 161 ; Educational Statistics, 167-81 ; Postal Statistics, 181-82 ; Subdivisional Administration, 182-84, List of Fiscal Divisions or *Parganas*, 185-219 ; Cyclone of 1864, 219-27 ; Climate, Medical aspect, etc., 227 ; Epidemics and Small-pox, 229 ; Epidemic Malarious Fever, 229-46 ; Cattle Diseases and Fairs, 246 ; Native Practitioners, 247 ; Indigenous Vegetable Drugs, 248, Dispensaries, 249
- Midnapur Town municipality, 47 ; brass and copper manufactures, 142 ; dispensary, 249
- Midnapur *pargana*, Historical account of, and of the Raja, 250
- Mines and minerals, 25, 142
- Missions : Christian and missionaries, 46, 177, 179
- Mohankhalı embankment, 133
- Morbhanj, Raja of, his estates and former troublesomeness, 4-5
- Mortgages, 146 ; *See also* Tenures of land
- Mughal Government, 2, 143
- Muhammadan population, 30, 44-45
- Mulberry, cultivation of, 68
- Municipalities, 47-54
- Municipal police—*See* Police statistics
- Mustard, cultivation of, 68
- N**
- Narajol village, with manufacture of cotton cloth and mats, 54, 142 ; embankment, 134
- Naruamata embankment, 137
- Naryangarh *pargana*, with ancient family of Rajas, 209
- Native Christian population, 46
- Native physicians, or *Kabirajs*, 247
- Natural calamities, 105-124, 219-227
- Nawada village, with manufacture of cane sugar, 54 ; seat of river traffic, 22, 145
- Nimtala village, with river traffic, 22
- Normal Schools, 175-79
- Nutan Bazar, with river traffic, 22
- O**
- Occupations of the people, 30-34
- Occupancy rights of the cultivators, 71
- Oil-Seeds, cultivation of, 68
- Orissa Balishahi *pargana*, Historical account of, 210-11
- Out-turn crops, 69-70
- P**
- Padambasan village, with river traffic, 22
- Parks, indigenous village police under the *Zamindars*, 87, 158-59
- Paratungi *Khal*, embankment, 132
- Pan* or betel-leaf, cultivation of, 68
- Pana circuit embankment, 133
- Panchkura, trading village, 145
- Pataspur *pargana*, Historical account of, 211-13
- Pataspur embankment, 137
- Peacock dynasty of Tamluk, 51-54
- Peasantry—*See* Cultivators, Tillage
- People, Material condition of, 65-66
- Pichabani embankment, 135
- Pilgrimage, Places of, 51, 53 ; *See also* Fairs
- Physical aspect of the district, 6-7
- Police circles or *thanas*, List of, 161
- Police statistics, 157-162
- Population : Estimates of, prior to 1872, 26 ; Census of 1872, its agencies and results, 26-37 ; according to sex and age, 27, 29 ; according to occupation, 30-34 ; ethnical division of, 34-44 ; religious division of, 44-46 ; division of, into town and country, 46-55
- Postal statistics, 181-82
- Prices—*See* Wages and prices
- Printing presses, 147
- Pulses, cultivation of, 68
- Purandarnadi, tributary of the Sibi, 9

R

- Raghunathpur or Raghunathbari, police station, with manufacture of mats, 54, 142
- Ramgarh *pargana*, Historical account of, 213-214
- Rasulpur or Bagda river, tributary of the Hugli, 10
- Rathgara Bazar branch dispensary, 250
- Reclamation of marsh land, 24
- Relief operations for famine of 1866, 116-24 ; for cyclone of 1864, 225-26
- Religious division of the people, 44-46
- Rent of land, Rates of, 89-95
- Rent cases, 156-57
- Rent-free tenures—See Tenures of land
- Revenue and expenditure, 147-50
- Rice crop : Long-stemmed or marsh-rice, 24 ; varieties of crop, 66-70 ; extension of cultivation, names of plant in different stages, and of preparations made therefrom, 69 ; estimated area under rice and out-turn, 69-70
- Right of cultivators—See Occupancy rights, and Tenures of land
- River system, 8-14
- River traffic, 22
- Roads and means of communication, 139-41
- Rotation of crops, 104
- Rupnarayan, east boundary of, 9 ; embankment, 132
- Rupnarayan and Rasulpur Canal, tidal, for navigation, 22
- Rusumat, or illegal fees paid to *zamindars*, 103-04

S

- Salt manufactured at Hijili, former Government monopoly, 5, 25, 143-45
- Samaj—See Brahma Samaj
- Sanbaria embankment, 135

- Sanitation, etc, with reference to malarious fever, 241
- Santals, 25, 36, 37 ; American Baptist Mission and schools, 46, 177-78
- Schools—See Educational Statistics
- Seaside watering-places, 55
- Semi-aboriginal castes, 43-44
- Service tenures—See Tenures of land
- Settlement of land : Permanent and temporary, 89-95, 151-52, 155-56
- Sex, population according to, 29-30
- Silai river, 9 ; embankment, 131
- Silk manufacture, 142
- Small-pox, 229
- Soadighi *Khal* embankment, 132
- Soapstone, 25, 142
- Societies,—See Institutions and Missions
- Soil of the district, 6
- Spare land, 69, 73
- Subanrekha river, 10
- Subdivisional administration, 182-84
- Subdivision of estates, 148
- Sugar-cane, cultivation of, 68 ; trade in sugar, 145
- Sujamuta embankment, 136
- Survey, Revenue of district, 95-97

T

- Talukdars—See Tenures of land
- Tamluk, capital of ancient Hindu kingdom, with mythical and historical fame, now a municipality and seat of commerce, 49-54, account of *pargana* under British rule, 216-18 ; dispensary, 250
- Tamluk, Subdivision, 28, 183
- Tenures of land : Ordinary rent-paying tenures, 74-80 ; cultivating tenures, 81 ; rent-free tenures, 83-86 ; service tenures, 87-89
- Tides in rivers—See River System, Bore, etc.
- Tidal canal, for navigation, 22
- Tillage : Long-Stemmed or marsh-rice, 24 ; rice crops, 66-67 ; green crops, 68 ; miscellaneous crops, 68-69 ; area, out-turn of crops, 69-70 ; implements of, 72 ; manure, irrigation, etc, 104-05

Tiropkia canal, for navigation, 22
Tours, list of, 46-56
Trade, 145-46

U

Udbabal embankment, 137
Uriyas, Numbers of, 37 ; influence in
the population, 5, 34

V

Vaishnavas, 41
Villages, Number of, 28-29, 184-85
Villages classified according to
population, 46-47
Village institutions, 57-65

Village watch—See Police statistics
and Paiks

W

Wages and prices, 72
Wahabis, or reforming sect of
Muhammadans, 46
Warnings of famine, 110-11
Waste land—See Spare land
Weights and measures, 72-73
Wild animals, 25

Z

Zamindars—See Tenures of land

